

Body of Christ Church

What we believe...**Tenets of Faith**

Holy Bible

The Holy Bible, and only the Bible, is the authoritative Word of God. It alone is the final authority for determining all doctrinal truths. In its original writing, the Bible is inspired, infallible and inerrant

(See Proverbs 30:5; Romans 16:25, 26; 2Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21)

God

There is one God, eternally existent in three persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and co-eternal. The Father is fully God; his Fatherhood is eternal and personal. He is the Father of the Lord Jesus and of all who believe in Christ.

Jesus

The Son is Jesus Christ. He was sent to the earth by the Father. On earth Jesus was fully God and fully man. He is the only man ever to have lived a sinless life. He was born of a virgin, died on the cross for humankind and, thus, paid the penalty for our sins through the shedding of His blood. He rose from the dead on the third day, ascended to the right hand of the Father, and will return in power and glory.

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is equal in deity and person with God the Father and God the Son. He makes people aware of their need for Jesus Christ, performs the miracle of the new birth, and comes to live in every Christian the moment they trust in Jesus Christ.

Man, His Fall and Redemption

Man is a created being, made in the likeness and image of God, but through Adam's transgression and fall, sin came into the world. "... all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." "As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one." Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was manifested to undo the work

of the devil and gave His life and shed His blood to redeem and restore man back to God.
(Romans 5:14; 3:23; 3:10; 1 John 3:8)

Salvation

Salvation is the gift of God to man, separate from works and the law, and is made operative by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, producing works acceptable to God. (Ephesians 2:8)

Eternal Life and the New Birth

Man's first step toward salvation is godly sorrow that worketh repentance. The New Birth is necessary to all men, and when experienced produces eternal life.

(II Corinthians 7:10, 1 John 5:12; John 3:3-5)

Water Baptism

Baptism in water by immersion is a direct commandment of our Lord and is for believers only. The ordinance is a symbol of the Christian's identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. (Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12; Acts 8:36-39)

The following recommendation regarding the water baptismal formula is adopted; to wit: "Upon your profession of faith, in the Name of Jesus, I now baptize you in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Amen."

Baptism in the Holy Ghost

The Baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire is a gift from God as promised by the Lord Jesus Christ to all believers in this dispensation and is received subsequent to the New Birth. This experience is accompanied by the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues as the Holy Spirit Himself gives utterance.

Sanctification

The Bible teaches that without holiness no man can see the Lord. We believe in the Doctrine of Sanctification as a definite, yet progressive work of Grace, commencing at the time of regeneration and continuing until the consummation of salvation at Christ's return.

(Hebrews 12:14; I Thessalonians 5:23; II Peter 3:18; II Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 3:12-14; I Corinthians 1:30)

Divine Healing

Healing is for the physical ills of the human body and is wrought by the power of God through the prayer of faith and by the laying on of hands. It is provided for in the atonement of Christ and is the privilege of every member of the church today. (Mark 16:18; James 5:14-16; I Peter 2:24; Matthew 8:17; Isaiah 53:4-5)

Resurrection of the Just and the Return of Our Lord

The angels said to Jesus' disciples, "...this same Jesus...shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven." His coming is imminent. When He comes, "...the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air..."

(Acts 1:11; I Thessalonians 4:16-17)

Following the Tribulation, He shall return to the earth as King of kings, and Lord of lords, and together with His saints, who shall be kings and priests; He shall reign a thousand years.

(Revelation 20:6)

Hell and Eternal Retribution

The one who physically dies in his sins without accepting Christ is hopelessly and eternally lost in the Lake of Fire and, therefore, has no further opportunity of hearing the Gospel or repenting. The Lake of Fire is literal. The terms “eternal” and “everlasting,” used in describing the duration of punishment of the damned in the Lake of Fire, carry the same thought and meaning of endless existence as used in denoting the duration of joy and ecstasy of saints in the presence of God.

(Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 19:20)