



## STATEMENT OF FAITH OF CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH PETERBOROUGH

**(A) THE BIBLE.** This church (Calvary Baptist Church Peterborough) will teach and preach from the King James Authorised version of the Bible. We say this because it is our conviction that this Bible is inspired (written by God) and the only perfect, inerrant Bible that He has preserved for the English-speaking world.

This Bible is our only authority in matters of faith and practice and should there ever be a conflict between the church constitution and this Bible, the Bible shall prevail.

All visiting teachers and preachers will be asked to use this Bible when preaching at the church. Congregational visitors to the church may naturally use whatever Bible they feel is right but we will take the opportunity to demonstrate how the King James bible is the Word of God.

The Bible tells us it is profitable for reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness (see 2 Tim. 3:15-16). The Bible is complete, and God has preserved it for every generation (Ps. 12:6-8). Its theme is Jesus Christ and His mission of bringing salvation to a lost world. The Bible is indestructible and eternal; powerful and an invaluable help to the believer as he serves the Lord.

**(B) DISPENSATIONS.** We believe that the Bible reveals God working with man in different ways, in different periods of time or what is sometimes called 'dispensations.' We believe that a good understanding of this subject is important to understanding the Bible.

**(C) GOD:** There is only One Living and True God. He is Triune (three in one) and eternally existent in three Persons, being the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They are all three One, all three eternal, and all three share the same nature, power, glory, attributes, and perfection as God. God is Almighty, Infinite, All-knowing, Most Holy, and never changing. He created the world and everything in it. In His mission of reconciling the world unto Himself, He is both all-loving and all-just. (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; John 14:10,26).

### **(D) THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST.**

1. We believe the The Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived in the womb by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men through our redemption achieved when he died on the

cross (Isa. 7:14, 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; 2 Cor 5:19-21; Gal. 4:4-5; Phil. 2:5-8). We believe Mary went on to have other children and we therefore do not believe that Mary is 'the mother of God'.

2. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice; and, that our justification is made sure and certain by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Acts 2:18-36; Rom. 3:24-25; 1 Peter 2:24; Eph. 1:7; 1 Peter 1:3-5). We believe The Lord Jesus Christ descended into the heart of the earth, went into hell itself and was made sin for us, who knew no sin. Matt 12:39-40; Jonah 2:2; Acts 2:27; 2 Cor 5:20-22

3. We believe that The Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfils the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate (Acts 1:9-10; Heb. 7:25, 9:24; Rom. 8:34; 1 John 2:1-2).

### **(E) THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The Holy Spirit is a distinct Person of the Godhead who does the mission and work of God in this world, of reproofing the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, and of convicting, pointing, and drawing men towards Jesus Christ. He was also at work at Creation, in the inspiration of the Bible, in Christ's birth and resurrection, and was promised by Christ to come to the believers after His ascension. He regenerates those who trust in Christ (Jn. 3:5-6), baptizing them spiritually into the body of Christ. He then indwells believers (Rom. 8:9), and He seals them unto the day of redemption (Eph. 1:13-14). We believe that every believer has the Holy Spirit, but to be filled with the Holy Spirit means to be yielded to the Holy Spirit's control. We do not believe the baptism of the Holy Spirit is associated with falling down or speaking in tongues.

2. We believe that He (the Holy Spirit) is the Divine Teacher who assists believers to understand the Scriptures (Eph. 1:17-18, 5:18; 1 John 2:20,27).

3. We believe that the sign gifts of The Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues and the gift of healing, were temporary (died along with the apostles). We believe that speaking in tongues is not the sign of the baptism or filling of The Holy Spirit and we believe that the ultimate deliverance of the body from sickness or death awaits the resurrection, though God frequently chooses to answer the prayers of believers for physical healing (1 Cor. 1:22, 13:8, 14:21-22).

### **(F) MAN IS MORALLY CORRUPT.**

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and, that man is depraved, and, of himself, unable to remedy his lost condition (Gen. 1:26-27; Jer 17:9; Rom. 3:22-23, 5:12, 6:23 10:13; Eph. 2:1-3, 4:17-19; 2 Pet. 3:9).

### **(G) SALVATION.**

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins (John 1:12; Eph. 1:7, 2:8-10; 1 Peter 1:18-19). We believe a person must be saved to be born again and become a Christian. We believe people are faced with a choice: to believe what the Bible says; or reject the Bible and ignore it. Ultimately, we believe this is a personal decision whether they wish to go to heaven or whether they wish to remain lost in their sins, and bound for hell.

The key question we believe people must answer is this: where will they spend eternity?

\* Living with God in a perfect heaven forever?

\* Or in the lake of fire for all eternity?

We believe these are the only two choices presented in the Bible and the Bible has never been wrong about anything. If a person wishes to live with God, then they have to accept his terms.

Since we believe a person cannot make themselves holy, the Lord is ready to give people his goodness instead. His goodness is contained in Jesus Christ who went to the cross and died for their sins. If people receive him as their saviour, we believe people will receive perfect goodness, and holiness, so that they can please God, and be acceptable in his sight. The Bible says "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved". That's the invitation. Neither people's own thinking; nor their good works can save them. People must trust Jesus alone by grace, through faith.

### **(H) THE ETERNAL SECURITY AND ASSURANCE OF THE BELIEVER.**

1. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by Gods power and are thus secure in Christ forever: "once saved, always saved" (John 6:37-40, 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1, 38-39; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 1 Peter 1:4-5). We do not believe there are any circumstances by which a saved person can become unsaved.
2. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of Gods word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh (Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).
3. Separation. We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as NOT to bring reproach upon their Saviour and Lord; and, that Christians should abstain from all appearances of evil (Rom. 12:1-2, 14:13; 2 Cor 6:14, 7:1; 1 Thess 5:23; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11).

### **(I) THE CHURCH.**

1. We believe that the local church, which is part of the whole body and espoused bride of Christ, is solely made up of born-again, saved persons (1Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23, 5:25-27).
2. We believe that the establishment and the continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament (Acts 14:27, 20:17, 20:28-32; 1Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).
3. We believe that God uses evangelists, pastors, deacons and teachers to equip believers in the assembly in order that they can do the work of the ministry (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11, 28; Eph. 4:7-12).
4. We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control (Acts 13:1-4, 15:19-31, 20:28; Rom. 16:1, 4; 1 Cor. 3:9, 16, 5:4-7, 13; 1Peter 5:1-4).
5. We recognise water baptism by immersion, and that baptism is a (figure) & testimony of our salvation and by no means a prerequisite to salvation (1 Pet.3:21).

**(J) THE GREAT COMMISSION** – The Great Commission was the command given by Jesus Christ to the church to preach the Gospel to the entire world. The Gospel is to be preached to every person, and believers are to be baptized. Followers are to be trained, resulting in the multiplication of churches for the Lord's glory. As believers serve the Lord, Christ goes with them (Matthew 28:18-20), as well as His

power (Mark 16:15-18). They are witnesses of the truth (Luke 24:44-48) with Christ's authority (John 20:21) to reach all people worldwide with the Gospel (Acts 1:8).

### **(K) THE ORDINANCES OF THE LOCAL CHURCH**

The Lord Jesus Christ gave two ordinances to the New Testament church. (1) Baptism was commanded by Christ in Matthew 28:18-20 as part of the Great Commission. It is a work of righteousness, and therefore is not a part of salvation (Titus 3:5). This is the first step of obedience for thankful believers. Baptism in the Bible is by immersion as a picture of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, and of our new life in Christ. It is a doorway to membership of a local church as a testimony of salvation. (2) The command of observing the Lord's Supper also was given by Christ as a memorial to His Sacrifice for us. The blood He shed for us is symbolized by unleavened fruit of the vine (grape juice), and His broken body is symbolized by unleavened bread.

These ordinances of the New Testament church are not "sacramental" channels of grace, but are beautiful memorials of obedience.

### **(L) THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.**

We believe in that "blessed hope", the personal, imminent return of Jesus Christ for his bride (the Church) 1 Thess 4:13-18. v 17..."Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them (the dead in Christ) in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord". We believe God will rapture His church prior to the seven-year tribulation period during which antichrist and his followers will attempt to destroy God's chosen people Israel. Christ will return to the Mount of Olives with great glory, along with His angels and saints, to destroy the unbelievers who have gathered there to fight Him. He will bind Satan and set up His own perfect government on earth, where He will reign 1,000 years. For believers, the second coming of Christ is a "blessed hope" for anticipated joy. At the end of the Tribulation, Jesus Christ will personally and visibly return with His saints, to establish His earthly Messianic Millennial Kingdom which was promised to the nation of Israel (Ps. 89:3-4; Dan. 2:31-45; Zech. 14:4-11; 1 Thess.1:10, 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev. 3:10, 19:11-16, 20:1-6).

Christ will set up His earthly kingdom upon His return after the Rapture and after the Tribulation period. This 1,000-year reign will be followed by Christ's eternal kingdom to which there shall be no end. Believers are promised to reign with Him

### **(M) THE ETERNAL STATE.**

1. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment in a lake of fire.(Matt. 25:46; John 5:28,29, 11:25-26; Rev. 20:5-6, 12-15).
2. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23, 3:21; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 20:4-6).
3. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection, when with the soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment (Matt. 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Rev. 20:11-15).

### **(N) THE PERSONALITY OF SATAN.**

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the Fall of Man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and, he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire (Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11, 25:41; Rev. 20:10).

### **(O) CREATION.**

We believe that God created the universe in six literal, 24-hour periods. We reject 'the theory of evolution' and **any other** science or philosophy that is in opposition to the bible. (Genesis 1:2; Exodus 20:11).

### **(P) CIVIL GOVERNMENT.**

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the home or family; 2) the church; and 3) the state or government. Every person is subject to these three authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. (Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb. 13:17; 1 Peter 2:13-14).

### **(Q) HUMAN SEXUALITY.**

1. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage between a man and a woman. We also believe that any form of sodomy (homosexuality), lesbianism, bisexuality, transexualism, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are all sinful perversions of God's gift of normal relationships and are also an abomination to God. (Gen. 2:24, 19:5&13, 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1, 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4).
2. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23).

### **(R) FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS**

1. We believe that men and women are *spiritually* equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and church. The husband is to be the leader of the home and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible to hold offices (Pastor and deacon) in the church (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 2:8-15, 3:4-5&12).

2. We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Jesus Christ. Children are a heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them, through consistent lifestyle examples and appropriate discipline, including Scriptural corporal correction. (Gen. 1:26-28; Ex. 20:12; Duet. 6:4-9; Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 19:18, 22:15, 23:13-14; Mark 10:6-12; 1 Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33, 6:1-4; Col. 3:18-21; Heb. 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7).

**(S) MISSIONS.** We believe that God has given the church a great commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that as many people as possible can be saved. We believe He is the only way to salvation and to heaven and we therefore reject the ability of any other religion whatsoever to bring about peace with God or provide a way for a sinner to get to heaven. As ambassadors of Jesus Christ we must use all available means to go to the foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20). We believe that it is right and

appropriate for the local church to evangelise the community it works in by whatever means brings glory to God, for example, tracting, door to door visitation and street preaching.

**(T) GIVING.** We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that which God has given him, and is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that God had established the 'tithe' as a basis for giving, but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all the rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made because it has been given to God (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; 1Tim. 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17).

**(U) ECCLESIASTICAL SEPARATION** – In the Bible, believers are to practice personal separation, which is to be separated **from** the world, sin, and error, and **to** the Lord, truth, and righteousness. Churches likewise are to obey the command to avoid false doctrine and apostasy (falling away from the faith). To protect the church, believers must mark those who teach false things (Rom. 16:17) and avoid bringing them into fellowship with them (2 Cor. 6:14). It is important for churches to have Bible discernment (1 Thess. 5:21), and to avoid getting together with ministries or organizations that continue to reject any part of Scripture (2 Cor. 6:14-18). Believers must avoid their doctrine, but be willing to help them to understand the truth as well. Churches must obey these commands, whilst being spiritual about it (James 3:13-18).

## **SECTION 2-AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH**

This statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The K.J.V. Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing statement of faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible, and therefore, is binding upon all members. All literature used in the church shall be in complete agreement with the statement of faith.