

MissAssist Doctrinal Statement

1. THE BIBLE

We believe that the Bible (consisting of 66 books) is the inspired Word of God, without error in the original writing, the complete revelation of God's will for the salvation of man, and the divine and final authority for Christian faith, life, and conduct. (**II Timothy 3:16 & 17; II Peter 1:20 & 21**)

Furthermore, we believe in the DIVINE PRESERVATION of God's Word. God has preserved His Word to every generation. (**Psalms 12:6 & 7; Matt. 24:35**)

We believe that God has preserved His Word through the traditional Hebrew and Greek manuscripts and that the King James Version is the best translation of those manuscripts. Therefore, we use it exclusively in all of our preaching and teaching ministries.

We believe that the proper method of Biblical Interpretation is the literal, grammatical, and historical method.

2. THE TRINITY

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit each co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. (**Genesis 1:1; Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; John 1:1-3 & 14, 4:24, 10:30; Acts 5:1-4**)

3. GOD THE FATHER

We believe in God the Father. He is perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, measureless in power, merciful toward men, hearing and answering prayer, providing salvation to all who come to Him through Christ. (**Matt. 6:9-13; I John 4:14**)

4. JESUS CHRIST

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ to be absolute Deity, the eternal Son of God, who became man without ceasing to be God. We believe He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men. (**Isa. 7:14, 9:6; Luke 1:34-35; John 1:1 & 14; II Cor. 5:19-21; Gal. 4:4 & 5**)

We believe that Jesus Christ lived a sinless life and died for the sins of mankind on the cross, thus being a perfect and complete sacrifice. (**John 10:17; Rom. 3:24 & 25; Heb. 9:14, 28; I Peter 3:18**)

We believe that Jesus Christ rose literally and physically from the dead and ascended into heaven where He is now seated on the right hand of the Majesty on high and ever lives to intercede as our High Priest and Advocate. (**John 2:19-22; Acts 1:9-11; Rom. 8:34; I Cor. 15:4-8; I Tim. 2:5; Heb. 1:3, 4:14, 7:25, 8:1, 9:24; I John 2:1 & 2**)

5. PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is absolute Deity and that He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He regenerates, baptizes, seals, indwells, fills, enlightens, guides, and empowers the believer for Godly living and service. (**John 3:5, 16:8, 16:13 & 14; Acts 1:8, 5:3-4; I Cor. 2:9-12, 3:16, 12:13; Eph. 4:30, 5:18**)

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the Divine Teacher who enables believers to understand and appropriate the Scriptures. It is the privilege and duty of the saved to be controlled by Him. Evidence of His control is the fruit of the Spirit. (**John 14:26, 16:13; Gal. 5:22-25; Eph. 5:18; I John 2:20 & 27**)

We believe that the Holy Spirit bestows spiritual gifts to believers at the moment they are saved and that these gifts are to be used for evangelization of the lost and the edification of the saved. (**Rom. 12:3-8; I Cor. 12:4-11 & 28**)

We believe that God has chosen local churches to accomplish His purposes in the world, and that God has equipped every believer with spiritual gifts so that he or she has the ability and potential for ministry. (**Eph. 4:11-16**)

We believe that some gifts of the Holy Spirit are permanent and are to be used throughout the Church Age. Four of the gifts of the Spirit were temporary and given in the Apostolic Age for the purpose of confirming the ministry of the apostles and the founding of the Church. Having fulfilled their purpose, they are not given today. The temporary gifts (also called sign gifts) were the gifts of miracles, healing, tongues, and interpretation of tongues. (**I Cor. 1:22, 13:8-13, 14:21-22; Heb. 1:1 & 2, 2:3 & 4**)

Therefore, we of Chapel Baptist Church declare our conviction that the present emphasis on the gifts of healing, miracles, tongues, and interpretation of tongues is not in harmony with the teaching of the Word of God for our times. We will not, therefore, receive or retain in membership any who claim to practice these gifts, participate in, or promote this movement.

6. SATAN

We believe in the personality of Satan, that he is the author of sin, that he was instrumental in the fall of the human race into sin, that he is the avowed enemy of God and man, and that he is doomed and shall be eternally punished in the lake of fire. (**Job 1:6 & 7; Isa. 14:12-17; Ezek. 28:11-19; Matt. 4:1-11, 25:41; John 8:44; Eph. 6:11 & 12; Rev. 20:10**)

7. MAN

We believe that man was directly created by God in His own image and likeness but that he willfully chose sin. The entire human race became alienated from God when Adam first sinned and is, therefore, eternally lost. The natural man is unable to remedy his lost condition. We believe in the literal Genesis account of creation. (**Gen. 1:26-27, 3:6-12; Romans 3:10 & 23, 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3, 4:17-19**)

8. SIN

We believe that sin is any thought, attitude, or action which does not conform to the character and nature of God as revealed in the Scriptures. (**I Peter 1:16; I John 3:4**)

We believe that all of mankind sinned in Adam, the head of the human race, and that each human being is thereby a sinner by birth and by choice. (**Rom. 3:23, 5:12; I John 1:8-10**)

9. SALVATION

We believe that salvation of mankind required the substitutionary death of Christ including the literal shedding of His blood. (**Rom.3:24-26; Heb. 9:22; I Peter 3:18**)

We believe that saving faith includes repentance. Repentance involves a change of heart and mind towards God, self, and sin. Repentance involves a change of desire toward God. Genuine repentance is demonstrated in the life of those who trust Christ. (**Luke 13:3-5, 24:47; Acts 3:19, 17:30**)

We believe that salvation is accomplished by the grace of God apart from human works through faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. (**I Cor. 15:1-5; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5**)

We believe that salvation involves deliverance from the penalty of sin at the moment of regeneration, from the power of sin during the Christian life here on earth, and from the presence of sin when we either die or at the Lord's return.

(Titus 2:11-13)

10. ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

We believe that all born again believers are eternally secure in Christ and shall never come into condemnation for sin. The security of the believer is based upon the eternal purposes of God, the sufficiency of the atonement of Christ for sinners, the nature of the gift of everlasting life, the present and unending intercession and advocacy of Christ in heaven, the unchangeable promises of God, and the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit. **(John 6:37-40, 10:27-29; Rom. 8:1, 38-39; I Cor. 1:4-8, 6:11 & 19; Ephesians 1:13-14; Heb. 7:25; I Peter 1:4 & 5; John 2:1-2, 5:13)**

While it is the believer's privilege to rejoice in the assurance of salvation, it should not be cause for license or liberty as an occasion to the flesh.

(Romans 6:1 & 2, 13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-14)

11. THE ETERNAL STATE

- a. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men. The saved are raised to eternal life and the unsaved to judgment and eternal punishment. **(Matt. 25:46; John 5:28 & 29, 11:25-26; Rev. 20:5 & 6, 12 & 13)**
- b. We believe that at death the souls of the redeemed are absent from the body and present with the Lord where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection where spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. **(Luke 23:43; II Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23, 3:21; I Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 4-6)**
- c. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection, when with soul and body are reunited after which they shall appear before the Great White Throne Judgment, and 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; II Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6 & 7; Rev. 20:11-15)**

12. THE BODY OF CHRIST

We believe that the **true Church** is a living organism and that it is the “body of Christ” of which He is the Head. The “body of Christ” is made up of regenerated, redeemed believers. We believe that the Church began on the day of Pentecost. (**Acts 2:1-4; I Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:22-23, 5:23; Col. 1:18**)

We believe that **local churches** are the visible representation of the body of Christ in a local community. A local church is a company of born again immersed believers called out from the world, separated unto the Lord Jesus Christ, voluntarily associated for the ministry of the Word, the mutual edification of its members, the propagation of the faith, and the observance of the ordinances.

(**I Cor. 1:2, 16:19; Acts 2:41-47**)

We believe that the local church is a sovereign independent body free from any external authority or control, exercising its own divinely awarded gifts, precepts, and privileges under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church.

(**Matt. 18:15-17; Eph. 4:11-16**)

We believe that the purpose of the church is to obey the command of Jesus to make disciples. (**Matt. 28:19-20**)

We believe that water baptism by immersion and the Lord’s table are ordinances to be observed by the Church during this present age. They are, however, not to be regarded as a means of salvation. (**Acts 2:41, 8:12, 26-40, 10:44-48; I Corinthians 11:23-33**)

13. SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD

We believe that all redeemed ones are called into a life of separation from worldly and sinful practices. (**Rom. 12:1-2; II Cor. 6:14-17; Gal. 5:16-25; James 4:4; I John 2:16, 3:3**)

14. TWO NATURES

We believe that all who are born again possess two natures with the provision made for the new nature to be victorious over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. We believe that all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural. (**Rom. 6:13; Gal. 5:16-25; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:1-10; I Pet. 1:14-16; I John 3:5-9**)

15. THE RAPTURE AND THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

We believe in the personal, pretribulational, premillennial, and imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones; that His blessed hope has a vital influence on the personal life and service of the believer; and that Christ will subsequently return to the earth at the end of the seven year tribulation with His saints to establish His millennial kingdom. (**Acts 1:11; I Cor. 15:51-52; I Thess. 1:10, 4:16-17; Rev. 19:11-21**)

16. MISSIONS

We believe that it is the obligation of every born again believer to bear witness by life and word to the truths revealed in the Word of God and to proclaim the Gospel to all the world.

We believe that God has given the church a great commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of 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; II Cor. 5:19-20**)

17. SEPARATION

We believe that local churches should be separate from all affiliation, fellowship, and cooperation with those that deny the true Christian faith. We believe that our church should refuse to be drawn into compromising alliances, even with well-meaning evangelical people, whereby our testimony would be impaired and our position confused even though beneficial results may be produced. (**Acts 20:27; Rom. 16:17; Eph. 5:11; II Tim. 1:13, 3:5; II John 9-11**)

18. CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: the home, the church, and the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including those in authority) 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.

The home, the church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God. (**Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb. 13:17; I Peter 2:13-14**)

19. ISRAEL

We believe in the sovereign selection of Israel as God's eternal covenant people, that she is now dispersed because of disobedience and rejection of Christ, that she will be gathered in their promised land after the completion of the church, and that she will be saved as a nation at the Second Coming of Christ.

We believe that whatever promises God has made to Israel, which have not been fulfilled at the Second Coming, will be fulfilled during the millennium.

(Gen. 13:14-17; Ezekiel 37; Rom. 11:1-32)

20. GIVING

We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church sacrificially and cheerfully through tithes and offerings.

We believe that tithing is an effective principle that God has used to meet the needs of New Testament churches. We do not believe that tithing is a law binding upon Christians in the New Testament as it was a law binding upon Jews in the Old Testament. The practice of tithing is encouraged but not required for membership at Chapel Baptist Church.

We believe that while the principle of the tithe is the basis for giving every Christian should give offerings over and above the tithe to support the work of the church.

(Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Mal. 3:10; Acts 4:34-37; I Cor. 16:2; II Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; I Tim. 6:17-18; I John 3:17)

Authority of our Statement of Faith

This Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all 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.