



**THAT WE MAY BELIEVE**



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## **Introduction**

From time to time, it is helpful to list some of the main teachings of the Bible along with some of the main passages where these teachings are found.

Whether you are new to the teachings of Jesus, or a long-time veteran of the Christian faith, or coming home to the gospel you learned long ago, we pray that the Holy Spirit may bless you with new or renewed faith through the good news of our Savior who lived, died and rose again to bring us back to His Father.



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**But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is  
the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you  
may have life in his name.**

*John 20:31*

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## **The one, true God is the Triune God – one God in three Persons.**

*Deuteronomy 6:4* Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God. The Lord is one!

*Matthew 3:16-17* After Jesus was baptized, he immediately went up out of the water. Suddenly, the heavens were opened for him! He saw the Spirit of God, descending like a dove and landing on him, and a voice out of the heavens said, “This is my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with him.”

*Matthew 28:19* Therefore go and gather disciples from all nations by baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*2 Corinthians 13:14* The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

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## **The Scriptures are the verbally inspired and inerrant Word of God.**

*John 10:35* ...and the Scripture cannot be broken...

*2 Timothy 3:15-17* ...and that from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, and for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, well equipped for every good work.

*2 Peter 1:21* In fact, no prophecy ever came by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were being carried along by the Holy Spirit.

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## **The Law shows us our sin and the Gospel shows us our Savior.**

*John 1:17* For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

*John 3:16* For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

*Romans 3:21-24* But now, completely apart from the law, a righteousness from God has been made known. The Law and the Prophets testify to it. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all and over all who believe. In fact, there is no difference, because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...

*Romans 6:23* For the wages of sin is death, but the undeserved gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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## **God created all things in six normal days and rested on the seventh.**

*Genesis 1-2 (excerpts)* In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. On the seventh day God had finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had been doing. God blessed the seventh day and set it apart as holy, because on it he rested from all his work of creation that he had done.

*Exodus 20:11* ...for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. In this way the Lord blessed the seventh day and made it holy.

*Hebrews 11:3* By faith we know that the universe was created by God's word, so that what is seen did not come from visible things.

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## **Since Adam and Eve fell into sin, all people are born sinful.**

*Genesis 6:5* The Lord saw that the wickedness of mankind was great on the earth, and that all the thoughts and plans they formed in their hearts were only evil every day.

*Genesis 8:21* The Lord smelled the pleasant aroma. The Lord said in his heart, "I will never again curse the soil anymore because of man, for the thoughts he forms in his heart are evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike every living thing, as I have done.

*Psalms 51:5* Certainly, I was guilty when I was born. I was sinful when my mother conceived me.

*John 3:6* Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh. Whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit.

*Romans 5:12* So then, just as sin entered the world through one man and death through sin, so also death spread to all people because all sinned.

*Ephesians 2:1* You were dead in your trespasses and sins...

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## **Our Savior Jesus Christ is true God and true Man in one Person.**

*John 1:1-18 (excerpts)* In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

*Luke 1:35* The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God..."

*Romans 9:5* Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, came the Christ, who is God over all, eternally blessed. Amen.

*Colossians 2:9* For all the fullness of God's being dwells bodily in Christ.

*1 John 5:20* We know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true, in his Son, Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

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## **Jesus Christ lived, suffered, died and rose bodily to save us.**

*Isaiah 53 (excerpts)* He was despised and rejected by men, a man who knew grief, who was well acquainted with suffering. Surely he was taking up our weaknesses, and he was carrying our sufferings. We thought it was because of God that he was stricken, smitten, and afflicted, but it was because of our rebellion that he was pierced. He was crushed for the guilt our sins deserved. The punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all have gone astray like sheep. Each of us has turned to his own way, but the Lord has charged all our guilt to him.

*Matthew 20:28* "...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

*John 3:16-18* "For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. The one who believes in him is not condemned, but the one who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God.

*Romans 4:25* He was handed over to death because of our trespasses and was raised to life because of our justification.

*Romans 5:18-19* So then, just as one trespass led to a verdict of condemnation for all people, so also one righteous verdict led to

life-giving justification for all people. For just as through the disobedience of one man the many became sinners, so also through the obedience of one man the many will become righteous.

*1 Corinthians 15:3-4* For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

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**God has justified (declared not guilty) all people for the sake of Christ.**

*John 1:29* The next day, John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

*John 3:16* For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

*Romans 5:18* So then, just as one trespass led to a verdict of condemnation for all people, so also one righteous verdict led to life-giving justification for all people.

*2 Corinthians 5:18-19* And all these things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. That is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them. And he has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation.

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**This justification or forgiveness only becomes ours personally by faith.**

*Mark 16:16* Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

*John 3:16* For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

*Romans 3:28* For we conclude that a person is justified by faith without the works of the law.

*Romans 4:5* But to the person who does not work but believes in the God who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited to him as righteousness.

*Ephesians 2:8-9* Indeed, it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

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### **The Holy Spirit gives us this faith through the Gospel (Means of Grace).**

*John 15:16* You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will endure, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

*Romans 1:16* For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes—to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

*Romans 10:17* So then, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message comes through the word of Christ.

*1 Corinthians 12:3* Therefore I am informing you that no one speaking by God's Spirit says, "A curse be upon Jesus," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

*James 1:18* Just as he planned, he gave us birth by the word of truth so that we would be a kind of firstfruits of his creations.

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## **Faith in Christ naturally produces a life of good works and prayer.**

*Matthew 7:7-8* “Keep asking, and it will be given to you. Keep seeking, and you will find. Keep knocking, and it will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, it will be opened.

*John 15:5* “I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him is the one who bears much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.

*James 2:17* So also, such “faith,” if it is alone and has no works, is dead.

*Galatians 5:22-23* But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

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## **Amid changes in society, God’s moral will does not change.**

*Matthew 5:17-19* “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy them but to fulfill them. Amen I tell you: Until heaven and earth pass away, not even the smallest letter, or even part of a letter, will in any way pass away from the Law until everything is fulfilled. So whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever practices and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

*1 Corinthians 6:9-20 (excerpts)* Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor males who have sex with males, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor the verbally abusive, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And some of you were those types of people. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. You are not your own, for you were bought at a price. Therefore glorify God with your body.

*Galatians 5:16-21 (excerpts)* What I am saying is this: Walk by the spirit, and you will not carry out what the sinful flesh desires...Now the works of the sinful flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, complete lack of restraint, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, discord, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, orgies, and things similar to these. I warn you, just as I also warned you before, that those who continue to do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

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## **Through the Gospel in Baptism, God begins and sustains faith.**

*Matthew 28:19* Therefore go and gather disciples from all nations by baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*Mark 16:16* Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

*John 3:5-6* Jesus answered, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God! Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh. Whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit.

*Acts 2:38-39* Peter answered them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children...”

*Titus 3:5* ...he saved us—not by righteous works that we did ourselves, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and the renewal by the Holy Spirit.

*1 Peter 3:21* And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the body but the guarantee of a good conscience before God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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## **Christ's true body and blood in Holy Communion convey forgiveness.**

*Matthew 26:26-28* While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples. He said, "Take, eat, this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you, for this is my blood of the new testament, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

*1 Corinthians 11:17-34 (excerpts)* ...For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the meal, he also took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new testament in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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## **The invisible, holy Christian Church consists of all believers in Christ.**

*1 Corinthians 3:16* Do you not know that you yourselves are God's temple, and that God's Spirit lives in you?

*Ephesians 1:23* The church is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

*Galatians 3:26* In fact, you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

*Ephesians 4:12* ...for the purpose of training the saints for the work of serving, in order to build up the body of Christ.

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## **We are to fellowship with a visible Church only on the basis of pure doctrine.**

*Matthew 7:15-23 (excerpts)* “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. ...Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and drive out demons in your name and perform many miracles in your name?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.’

*John 8:31* So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples.

*Romans 16:17-18* But I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and offenses contrary to the teaching that you learned, and keep away from them. For such people are not serving Christ our Lord but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery, they seduce the hearts of the unsuspecting.

*Titus 3:10* Reject a divisive person after a first and second warning...

*2 John 10-11* If someone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house. Do not even wish him well. For the one who wishes him well shares in his wicked works.

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## **Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

*Matthew 24-25 (excerpts)* They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. He will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats....”

*John 5:16-29 (excerpts)* “In fact, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, so that all should honor the Son just

as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Amen, Amen, I tell you: Anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He is not going to come into judgment but has crossed over from death to life. ....Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and will come out. Those who have done good will rise to live, but those who have practiced evil will rise to be condemned.”

*John 14:1-6* “Do not let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me, so that you may also be where I am. You know where I am going, and you know the way.”

“Lord, we don’t know where you are going,” Thomas replied, “so how can we know the way?”

Jesus said to him, “I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.

*Acts 1:11* They said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing here looking up into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

*1 Thessalonians 4:13-18* We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you do not grieve in the same way as the others, who have no hope. Indeed, if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, then in the same way we also believe that God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep through Jesus.

In fact, we tell you this by the word of the Lord: We who are alive and left until the coming of the Lord will certainly not go on ahead of those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them,

to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord.  
Therefore, encourage one another with these words.

*1 Corinthians 15 (excerpts)* ...Look, I tell you a mystery. We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. But once this perishable body has put on imperishability, and this mortal body has put on immortality, then what is written will be fulfilled:

Death is swallowed up in victory.

Death, where is your sting?

Grave, where is your victory?

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

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