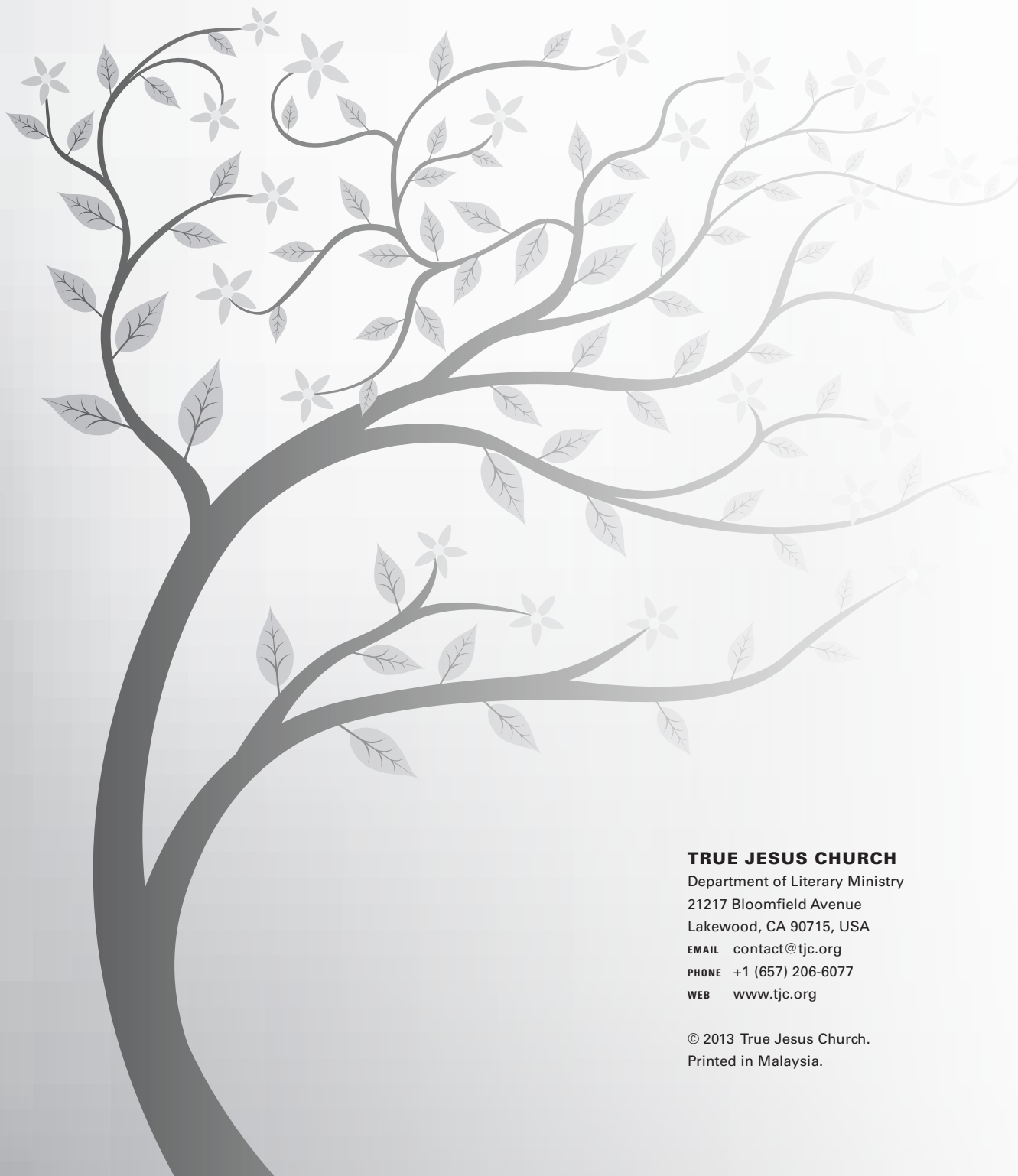


Our Basic Beliefs

AN INTRODUCTORY BROCHURE





ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

This booklet introduces the basic beliefs of the True Jesus Church regarding the way to eternal life. The essays, which make up the main portion of the booklet, invite you to ponder some fundamental questions about your personal relationship with God and the salvation of Jesus Christ. Each topic also includes a special section with verses, facts, or instructions.

A glossary, which comes after the essays, explains some terms that may be new to you or have their unique definitions in biblical context. If this is the first time you are reading Christian literature, it can be quite helpful to glance over the glossary before you begin reading the essays.

All of our beliefs are scripturally based. Supporting verses may be found in the biblical references section at the end of the booklet. Please note that this is not an exhaustive reference.

TRUE JESUS CHURCH

Department of Literary Ministry
21217 Bloomfield Avenue
Lakewood, CA 90715, USA

EMAIL contact@tjc.org

PHONE +1 (657) 206-6077

WEB www.tjc.org

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Articles of Faith



JESUS CHRIST, the Word who became flesh, died on the cross for the redemption of sinners, resurrected on the third day, and ascended to heaven. He is the only Savior of mankind, the Creator of the heavens and earth, and the only true God.

(1 Tim 3:16; 1 Cor 15:3–4; Acts 4:12)



The **HOLY BIBLE**, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, is inspired by God, the only scriptural truth, and the standard for Christian living.

(2 Tim 3:16)



The **TRUE JESUS CHURCH**, established by our Lord Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit during the time of the “latter rain,” is the restored true church of the apostolic time. (Joel 2:23; Amos 9:11)



WATER BAPTISM is the sacrament for the remission of sins for regeneration. The baptism must take place in natural living water, such as the river, sea, or spring. The baptist, who already has had received baptism of water and the Holy Spirit, conducts the baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. And the person receiving the baptism must be completely immersed in water with head bowed and face downward. (Jn 3:5; Mt 3:16; Acts 2:38, 10:48)



Receiving the **HOLY SPIRIT**, evidenced by speaking in tongues, is the guarantee of our inheritance of the kingdom of heaven.

(Rom 8:16; Eph 1:13–14)



The sacrament of **FOOTWASHING** enables one to have a part with the Lord Jesus. It also serves as a constant reminder that one should have love, holiness, humility, forgiveness, and service. Every person who has received water baptism must have his/her feet washed in the name of Jesus Christ. Mutual footwashing may be practiced whenever it is appropriate. (Jn 13:1–7)



The **HOLY COMMUNION** is the sacrament to commemorate the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. It enables us to partake of the flesh and blood of our Lord and to be in communion with Him so that we can have eternal life and be raised on the last day. This sacrament shall be held as often as possible. Only one unleavened bread and grape juice shall be used. (1 Cor 10:17, 11:26; Jn 6:53; Mk 14:24–25)



The **SABBATH DAY**, the seventh day of the week (Saturday), is a holy day, blessed and sanctified by God. It is to be observed under the Lord’s grace for the commemoration of God’s creation and salvation, and with the hope of eternal rest in the life to come. (Gen 2:2–3; Heb 4:9–11)



SALVATION is given by the grace of God through faith. Believers must rely on the Holy Spirit to pursue holiness, to honor God, and to love humanity.

(Eph 2:8)



The **LORD’S SECOND COMING** will take place on the last day when He descends from heaven to judge the world: the righteous will receive eternal life, while the wicked will be eternally condemned.

(Mt 25:31–34; 1 Thess 4:16–17)

Jesus the True God

Who is God? Did He really come in the flesh as Jesus Christ? What is His relationship to human beings? The Bible holds answers to these questions, for it contains God's self-revelation of His divine nature through His authoritative words and marvelous deeds.

Creator

Everything in this universe, from the tiny atom to the enormous galaxy, from the simplest cell to the most complex organism, testifies to the existence of an infinitely intelligent designer.

This designer is God. At His word, the sun, the moon, and the stars came into being; and by His command, oceans, mountains, and rivers were formed.

God is also the giver of life. He created fishes, birds, land animals, insects, and plants. Most importantly, He made human beings in His image. We are created to carry the divine nature of our Creator and share His glory. And yet, most of us have failed to acknowledge the Maker of all things and to live up to God's expectation of His children.

If you are willing to return to the God who has made you and entrust your life to Him, He will create a new heart within you today so that you may become a new person and lead a new and meaningful life.

.....
"You alone are the Lord;
You have made heaven,
the heaven of heavens,
with all their host,
the earth and everything
on it, the seas and all
that is in them, and You
preserve them all. The host
of heaven worships You."
.....

NEHEMIAH (NEHEMIAH 9:6)

.....
"For the Lord is the great God, and the
great King above all gods. In His hand
are the deep places of the earth; the heights
of the hills are His also. The sea is His,
for He made it; and His hands formed
the dry land. Oh come, let us worship
and bow down; let us kneel before the
Lord our Maker. For He is our God, and
we are the people of His pasture, and
the sheep of His hand."
.....

ANONYMOUS (PSALM 95:3-7)

Ruler

The God who created the universe also rules His creation with His sovereign power. God's universal and unchanging laws are seen from the microscopic to the astronomical realms. Through these laws, God sustains and holds together all things.

God rules over living things as well. His providence and care keep the entire ecosystem in a balanced structure; the existence of all species is always mutually supportive under the divine guidance. God supplies sufficient air, sends rain from heaven, and gives sunlight to maintain the food chain.

Today, God also rules in the hearts of those who believe and trust in Him—not by force, but with love. Believers who obey God's rule find guidance in life and assurance of eternal bliss. It is the duty of Christians to proclaim God's kingdom until the King of kings ultimately

reigns over all nations and peoples with justice and righteousness. Then, He will receive all praises and exaltation as He deserves.



Savior

Who would ever have imagined that the glorious God in heaven, surrounded by thousands upon thousands of angels, would humbly take the form of a human being, be born in a manger and brought up in a carpenter's home?

Jesus, the incarnation of God, came to this world to preach the love and mercy of God and His kingdom; He healed the sick, freed the demon-possessed, and comforted the destitute.

Despite His many compassionate deeds, He was slandered, envied, and scorned; He was arrested, mocked, spit at, whipped, and finally nailed to the cross. For our many transgressions, the Lord Jesus suffered the agony of crucifixion and tasted the bitterness of God's rejection. But He rose on the third day, boasting victory over sin and death, and completing His work of salvation for humankind.

The salvation that the Lord Jesus brought to us fully manifests the immense love of God. It is by His self-sacrifice that we are spared of the eternal punishment in hell. It is through His death that we have a chance to return to God and a hope of everlasting life in the joyous and glorious heavenly kingdom.

Judge

God's mercy does not nullify His justice. Although God readily pardons sinners who truly repent and turn from their evil, yet He does not leave evil-doers unpunished.

.....
"For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
.....

PAUL (ROMANS 5:6-8)

.....
"But the Lord shall endure forever; He has prepared His throne for judgment. He shall judge the world in righteousness, and He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness... Sing praises to the Lord, who dwells in Zion! Declare His deeds among the people. When He avenges blood, He remembers them; He does not forget the cry of the humble."
.....

DAVID (PSALM 9:7-8, 11-12)

Justice often seems obscured in a world filled with fraud, greed, oppression, and hatred. The absence of immediate reward and punishment makes us question the existence of an all-knowing Judge in heaven.

However, God has promised in the Bible that justice will eventually prevail. The Lord Jesus will come one day as the Judge of the whole

earth to repay everyone according to his deeds and reveal every sinful thought in his heart. He will also condemn those who refused to accept the salvation of Jesus Christ, and reward the righteous with honor, glory, and eternal life.

GOD IS...

Essence

spirit
self-existing
eternal
transcendent¹
immanent²

Attributes

omnipresent³
omnipotent⁴
omniscient⁵
holy
jealous⁶
loving
faithful
just
merciful

JESUS IS GOD

The Bible attests to the divinity of Jesus Christ with these facts:

- » He is the **Creator**.
- » He is the **incarnation of God**, born of a virgin through the Holy Spirit as prophesied long ago.
- » He fully manifests God's **divine nature**.
- » His name, "Jesus," is the **name of God**.
- » He is the only **Savior**.
- » He is **risen** from the dead.
- » He is still **alive**. He cleanses us during baptism and gives us the Holy Spirit just as He promised.
- » He is the **Judge**.
- » He is the **King** of kings, and **Lord** of lords.

¹ existing beyond the universe

² involved in the universe

³ all-present

⁴ all-powerful

⁵ all-knowing

⁶ detesting evil

The Holy Bible

No book is ever as relevant to us as the Bible. As the inspired word of God, the Bible has always provided comfort for the discouraged, strength for the weak, and light for those in the darkness of doubt, suffering, and sin. Because many have read it, delved into it and lived by it, the Bible has long been a best seller. It has been translated, in part or in whole, into more than 2,500 languages. As many have already done, let us embrace the word of God and discover its authority and life-giving message.

A Book with Authority

DIVINE ORIGIN

“All Scripture is God-breathed” (2 Timothy 3:16 NIV). With these words, the Bible asserts its authority as the word of God. Even though the 66 books of the Bible were penned by some 40 different authors over a span of about 2,000 years, the Bible maintains its harmony and unity. There are, miraculously, no doctrinal discrepancies or factual errors.

INFALLIBILITY

Through the ages, the Bible proves itself again and again by the fulfillment of its prophecies hundreds and even thousands of years after their proclamation. Despite deliberate efforts of Bible critics to challenge God’s word, the Bible has stood the test of time. Even to this day, discoveries of historical and scientific facts continue to uphold the validity of the Bible.

LIVING WORD

Nothing can be more convincing than having the word of God work wonders in our lives and guide our way to eternal life. To experience and reap the benefits of the word of God is in itself living proof that the Bible is indeed from God.

As the infallible word of God, the Bible “never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21).

The Bible at Work

DIRECT

The Bible sheds light on our path and shows us the way God expects us to think, speak, and act. It gives us a set of values by which we find assurance and guidance regardless of where and how we are in our lives. By obeying the word of God, we discover the oasis of peace and joy amidst the desert of false values and entangling materialism.

TRANSFORM

The Bible is much more than a set of guidelines for passive observance. “For the word of God is living and powerful... and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12). Like a mirror, the Bible reflects our true selves and discloses the vices that we do not see in ourselves. The word of God is able to transform our inner beings from inside out.

SAVE

Most importantly, the Scriptures contain the wisdom of salvation through knowing Jesus Christ. The Bible reveals God’s salvation plan and clearly shows us the way back to God. It directs our hope to an everlasting kingdom and teaches us how to prepare ourselves for that glorious inheritance. If we diligently search God’s word and humbly put our trust in it, we will surely discover the truth that leads to eternal life.



WHAT IS COVERED IN THE BIBLE ?

THEME | God's love for human beings culminating in the salvation of Jesus Christ

The Bible and You

READ IT

You may have heard a lot about the Bible or even have formed certain opinions about the Bible. But have you ever read the Bible yourself? There is no better way to find out what the Bible has to say than to actually turn its pages and study it. Although you may not understand every verse the first time around, at least you can appreciate how the Bible differs from all other books.

THINK ABOUT IT

Read the Bible with an open and prayerful mind. Let God's word speak to your heart. Meditate on what you have read. If you can't understand a particular passage or if there are issues that you find difficult to agree with, talk to our church members and ask them to share their knowledge with you. Better yet, seek God's guidance through prayer.

DO IT

As you read, believe in God's word with a simple faith. Learn to apply it to your life and put it into practice. It is in doing that you come to fully experience the truthfulness of God's promises. The book that has changed the lives of millions can also change your life today.

Old Testament

THE PENTATEUCH 5 Books

- » Origin of all things
- » Early history of the chosen people — bondage, deliverance, pilgrimage
- » God's laws and ordinances concerning religion, morality, society, and cleanliness

HISTORICAL BOOKS 12 Books

- » Conquering of the Promised Land
- » Story of Ruth — an ancestress of David and Christ
- » Rise, fall, and captivity of the chosen nation

POETIC BOOKS 5 Books

- » Job's trial and his conversation with his friends and with God
- » Spiritual songs and poems
- » Wise sayings by Solomon and others
- » Poem depicting the mutual love between Christ and His church

PROPHETIC BOOKS 17 Books

- » Attestation to the dire state of Israel
- » Proclamation of God's judgment
- » Hope of future restoration

New Testament

THE GOSPELS 4 Books

- » Four portraits of Jesus Christ — His birth, life, ministry, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension

HISTORICAL BOOK 1 Book

- » Origin and expansion of the early church

THE EPISTLES 21 Books

- » Apostolic letters to the churches and believers

THE APOCALYPSE 1 Book

- » Christ's words to the seven churches
- » Visions of the past, present, and future under the divine hand

True Jesus Church

The church, being the “pillar and foundation of the truth,” must uphold and proclaim the good news of God’s kingdom in complete accordance with the Scriptures. Today, the True Jesus Church has faithfully proclaimed the gospel of Jesus Christ worldwide and brought many to the Lord. We invite you to study the truth with us in this church and walk with us on the path of salvation.

Origin...

GOD’S HOUSE

It was God’s will, according to His plan of salvation, that all who receive the redemption of Jesus Christ become members of God’s household. The Bible calls this household of God the “church” (1 Timothy 3:15), made up of God’s people throughout history. It is a spiritual community to which every believer of Jesus Christ belongs.

THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH

Just as He had predestined, God established the apostolic church on earth through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus and the pouring out of the promised Holy Spirit. The church proclaimed the gospel of salvation and was united in fellowship. By the power of the Holy Spirit, the apostolic church spread from Jerusalem to Asia and Europe. The Lord manifested His mighty works through the church, and continued to add to their number those who were being saved.

But soon after the days of the apostles, heresy and political power replaced the gospel that was once entrusted to the saints.

TRUE JESUS CHURCH

In 1917, God revived His church by building up the True Jesus Church in Beijing, China. The early workers, having received the Holy Spirit and revelation of the true gospel, began preaching the truth of salvation from the heart of China. The Holy Spirit worked mightily; signs and miracles confirmed the truth that the church preached.

Within a few decades, the gospel advanced swiftly and covered almost every province of China. The church then expanded to other parts of Asia. Until today, the true gospel has also reached countries in the Americas, Africa, Europe, and Australia.



WHY “TRUE” JESUS CHURCH ?

- » The God we worship is the true God; thus His church is the true church.
- » The Lord Jesus called Himself the True Vine; the church, which is His body, is therefore called the true church.
- » The true church preaches the true and complete gospel, which is confirmed by the Holy Spirit, signs, and miracles.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE TRUE JESUS CHURCH

- » **Denomination**
Independent
- » **Year Established**
1917
- » **Founder**
Lord Jesus Christ
- » **Membership**
2 million in 48 countries
- » **Essential Doctrines**
Jesus the One True God,
Bible the Word of God,
Salvation by Grace
through Faith, Baptism,
the Promised Holy Spirit,
Footwashing, Holy Communion,
Sabbath (Saturday), Church
the Body of Christ, and the
Second Coming of Christ.

One Church, One Gospel

“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism” (Ephesians 4:4–5). The church is the body of Christ. There is only one true church because Christ has only one body, and this church preaches the only gospel of salvation.

In this end time, the Lord Himself has raised up the True Jesus Church to preach the only way of salvation. She was founded by the one Spirit that founded the apostolic church; she shares the one faith that the apostles once preached; and she administers the one baptism that the apostles administered. This is the true church, the body of Christ. So we must come into this church by accepting the true gospel and be baptized into the one body of Christ.

Mission...

The Lord Jesus commissioned His disciples two major tasks: to proclaim the gospel to every nation (Mark 16:15–16) and to attend to the spiritual needs of all believers in the church (John 21:15–17).

Relying on God’s purpose and might, the True Jesus Church aims to accomplish this two-pronged commission. Through constant prayer, we trust that the Holy Spirit will enable us to carry the gospel of salvation to all the corners of the world, so that people of all races will come to accept the Lord Jesus Christ. In preparing for the Lord’s second coming, the church also strives to strengthen the faith and uplift the spiritual qualities of her members through continual devotion to prayer, mutual encouragement, and studying the Scriptures. Ultimately, the church as a whole may present herself holy and pure to the Lord.

Baptism

Over the course of human history, the atonement of guilt by the shedding of blood is found in many religions. Despite the piety of the worshipers, the blood of animals or even that of human beings cannot remove sins. Only the blood of Christ Jesus, who died on the cross in our stead, has the power to cleanse. But after almost two thousand years, where can we find His blood today? The answer is found in water baptism, where the wonder of God's miraculous cleansing takes place.

A Redeeming Fountain

ORIGIN

"But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out" (John 19:34).

The sacrificial death of the Lord Jesus on the cross opened a fountain for cleansing that flows to this day. Anyone who believes in the Lord Jesus and repents of his sins may be washed freely through baptism.

EFFECT

When performed according to the biblically prescribed mode and in the name of Jesus Christ, baptism carries the marvelous power to remove all sins, for the precious blood of our Lord Jesus is present in the water by the Holy Spirit's witness. God has confirmed the baptism in the True Jesus Church by showing countless visions of Jesus' blood in the water and by working miracles of healing.

Water, Blood, and the Holy Spirit

If baptism were merely immersion in water, then it would be nothing but a religious rite, since water cannot take away guilt. But the mystery of baptism lies in the profound unity of water, blood, and the Holy Spirit. "This is the one who came by water and blood— Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement" (1 John 5:6–8 NIV). With the presence of the Holy Spirit, the precious blood of the Lord Jesus is still in the water during baptisms performed by the church. Baptism, therefore, is far more than a symbolic act.

The Biblical Way of Baptism



WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED ?

Most believers of Christ claim that baptism is simply a rite for becoming a church member or just an expression of a person's belief in Christ. This assumption makes baptism unnecessary for salvation. But what does the Bible tell us? Let us look at what the Bible says about the effects of baptism:

To Be Cleansed

"Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.'" (Acts 2:38)

"And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22:16)

To Be Saved

"He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:16)

"And this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also — not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 3:21 NIV)

To Enter God's Kingdom

"Jesus answered, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.'" (John 3:5)

To Receive a New Life

"Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:4)

To Put on Christ

"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (Galatians 3:27)

The Promised Holy Spirit

Have you ever wondered if you could touch God and feel His presence in your daily life? Are you constantly overwhelmed by the temptations of this world? Do you find it difficult to understand God's will? What a wonderful blessing it is that God has promised to abide with us by sending His precious Spirit into our hearts! When the Holy Spirit fills you, He will dwell in you to guide you and strengthen you through moments of doubt, weakness, and suffering. Swing the door of your heart wide open and ask the Spirit of God to come in to stay.

Receive the Holy Spirit

WHAT IS IT LIKE?

The baptism of the Holy Spirit refers to the descent and indwelling of God's Spirit. The initial experience of the Holy Spirit usually occurs during prayer. The sign and evidence of receiving the Holy Spirit is speaking of unintelligible tongues. Everyone who has received the Holy Spirit prays to God with a spiritual tongue without having to be taught how to do so. Oftentimes, in addition to speaking in tongues, there is also body movement, warmth, and indescribable inner joy.

WHO IS IT FOR?

The Lord Jesus has already promised this precious gift to anyone who believes and sincerely asks Him. Experience God personally by asking Him to forgive your sins and come into your heart. Receiving the Holy Spirit can be your most wonderful and joyful experience.

Be Born of the Holy Spirit

A NEW LIFE

The transforming power of the Holy Spirit delivers true believers from sinful and depraved lives. Whereas we used to indulge in our evil desires, we are now set free from the control of sin. God has promised, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them" (Ezekiel 36:26-27). God's Spirit can revive our souls and make us new beings who lead an active Christian life and possess the hope of eternal life.



Walk by the Holy Spirit

PERSONAL COUNSELOR

The Holy Spirit is a personal counselor who is always there for you on your heavenly pilgrimage. He gives you wisdom to fully understand God's word; He guides you to walk in God's ways; He corrects you when you have done wrong; and He strengthens you when you are too weak to go on.

LIVE ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT

It is important, therefore, to pray constantly for the fullness of the Holy Spirit so as to always feel His presence, and to submit your whole life to the guiding hands of the Holy Spirit. By walking with the Holy Spirit through obeying His will in your day-to-day living, you will triumphantly complete the journey to heaven.

THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN A BELIEVER'S LIFE

- » He **justifies** by moving a sinner to repent and by being a witness of cleansing during water baptism.
- » He **testifies** that we are God's children.
- » He **seals** us to guarantee our heavenly inheritance.
- » He **reveals** the Truth by opening our inner eyes to understand God's word.
- » He **saves** by releasing believers from the bondage of sin and eternal death and by reviving our souls.
- » He **sanctifies** by purifying believers' hearts and giving them power to overcome temptation and lust.
- » He **intercedes** for believers according to the will of God.
- » He **empowers** by giving believers boldness to preach the gospel, enabling them to perform signs and wonders, and providing them strength to do good.
- » He **gives hope** by proving that the Lord Jesus has prepared a dwelling place for us and that He will come to receive us to His kingdom.

HOW DO I RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT ?

- » Believe in God and His word.
- » Repent of all your sins.
- » Be baptized for the remission of sins.
- » Pray earnestly and persistently to God to fill you with His Spirit.

HOW DO I PRAY ?

- » Kneel with humility.
- » Close your eyes to concentrate.
- » Begin by saying "In the name of the Lord Jesus I pray."
- » Praise the Lord by saying "Hallelujah."
- » Spend time to speak with God from your heart and ask Him to fill you with the Holy Spirit.
- » Conclude your prayer with "Amen."

Footwashing

The apostle John begins his account of Jesus' washing of His disciples' feet with these words: "having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end." Yes! The washing of feet is an action expressing the Lord's unceasing love for us. Not only has He taken away our sinful past, He wants us to walk with Him and be like Him in His holiness, love, and humble service so that we may share His glory in the future. Let us receive this love with a heart of gratitude.

Why Footwashing?

UNIQUE

Washing of feet has been the tradition of the Jews since the beginning of the Hebrew culture. As a sign of hospitality, the host would receive guests by offering water to let them wash their feet. The footwashing Jesus performed on His disciples, however, sets itself apart from tradition because of its importance in a believer's relationship with Christ.

EFFECTIVE

"If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me" (John 13:8). These words of Jesus to Peter are certainly worth serious attention by anyone who wishes to have a part in God's kingdom.

NECESSARY

The Lord Jesus Himself instituted the sacrament of footwashing and commanded His disciples to follow His example. A Christian needs to have his feet washed after baptism, for the Lord said, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean" (John 13:10).

What Does It Mean?

WALK WITH CHRIST

The implication of footwashing becomes clear when we consider the Bible's teachings on Christian living. Every believer who has been cleansed through baptism has the duty to imitate the perfection of Christ Jesus. The sacrament of footwashing is the Lord's invitation to His followers to participate in His divine nature (SEE 2 Peter 1:4).

BE LIKE CHRIST

To be like Christ requires that we forsake our sinful way of life in the past and walk with the Lord in our daily lives. We need to keep our feet from sinning by obeying God's word, for the word of God is "a lamp to [our] feet and a light to [our] path" (Psalm 119:105). Through the constant guidance of God's word and the help of the Holy Spirit, we will be as pure as Christ and walk side by side with Him on our journey to heaven.



IS THE WASHING OF FEET JUST A JEWISH CUSTOM ?

The Lord Jesus also demonstrated His love and humility when He washed His disciples' feet. "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet" (John 13:14). Imitating Christ not only involves preserving purity, but entails sharing His love with others. Christians are called to support one another by humbly serving, encouraging, and forgiving each other.

Receiving footwashing is therefore an agreement to allow Christ to be the Lord of your life and a commitment to walk in His footsteps. Accept His invitation so that you may have a part in His kingdom.

Performing the Sacrament

The sacrament must be carried out in the name of the Lord Jesus, since the sacrament is performed on behalf of our Lord, and it is by His name that we are cleansed and saved.

In accordance with the example the Lord Jesus has set, the worker conducting the sacrament pours water into a basin, washes the candidate's feet, and dries them with a towel.

The worker who administers the sacrament represents the Lord Jesus; this duty is thus generally delegated to church ministers who have been ordained to serve (such as elders, deacons, and preachers). However, if no ordained worker is present, every brother or sister who has been baptized, has received the Holy Spirit, and leads a godly life may perform the washing of feet.

The sacrament of footwashing cannot be simply a cultural custom or ritual for the following reasons:

- » In the Jewish society, servants wash the feet of the master; the Lord Jesus, on the contrary, washed His disciples' feet.
- » The Lord Jesus clearly stated the necessity of the washing of feet to have a part with Him.
- » The Lord Jesus instructed His disciples to imitate His example. Everyone who obeys His command is blessed.

Holy Communion

Passover is a yearly festival during which the Israelites celebrate God's deliverance of His people from a land of bondage. It is a day for the Jewish community to remember how the blood of the slaughtered lamb saved them from the smiting hand of God that killed all the first-born of Egypt. Today, Christ the Passover Lamb has been slain and His blood has spared us of eternal death. We, the spiritual chosen people of God, must also commemorate Christ's saving grace by partaking in the new Passover — the Holy Communion.

"In Remembrance of Me"

ORIGIN

Also known as the Lord's Supper, the Holy Communion is a sacrament instituted by the Lord Jesus Himself during His last Passover meal with His disciples. "The Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.' In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me'" (1 Corinthians 11:23–25).

PURPOSE

During the Holy Communion, we meditate on and proclaim the immense grace of our Savior shown by His personal sacrifice. The sacrament is also an occasion for us to renew our determination to love the Lord more by giving our lives to serve Him.

Spiritual Communion

FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRIST

The Lord Jesus said, "Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him" (John 6:54–56).

The Holy Communion is a fellowship through which God bestows His life on the participants. After the thanksgiving prayer, the bread and grape juice become the body and blood of the Lord in the Spirit. By partaking of this sacrament, believers join with the Lord Jesus Christ and with one another in the spirit and share the fullness of life that the Lord has promised.



REAL FLESH AND BLOOD ?

Jesus said that those who eat His flesh and drink His blood will have eternal life. Are we to take His words literally? Do we actually eat and drink the flesh and blood of Christ during the Holy Communion?

Flesh and blood represent a person's life. To partake of Jesus' flesh and blood means to partake of His spiritual life, rather than His physical body.

With the presence of the Holy Spirit, the bread and juice used during the Communion become the spiritual flesh and blood of Jesus. The Lord Jesus called Himself, in figurative terms, the bread from heaven and the living water. By eating this "spiritual food" and drinking this "spiritual drink" (SEE 1 Corinthians 10:3-4), we share the life of Jesus Christ. Our communion with Christ through the sacrament keeps us from becoming weary or thirsty on the heavenly journey. And on the last day, Jesus Christ will resurrect us and give us His everlasting life.

The Meaning of the Holy Communion

ONENESS

The "one bread" used in the Holy Communion signifies that Jesus has only one body and all the believers are members of that one body. Therefore, the bread we partake of during the Holy Communion is a participation in the body of Christ. Eating this bread demonstrates the unity and fellowship with the Lord Jesus and with other believers.

PURITY

The "unleavened bread" represents the holiness of Jesus; it is a reminder that the church, as the body of Christ, must strive to be holy and blameless. We must keep our thoughts, speech, and daily conduct pure. The church as a whole must also uphold her integrity and pledge her allegiance to the Truth of God.

COVENANT

The cup we receive is the cup of the new covenant established by the blood of Christ. This new covenant is a sign that we have become God's chosen people through Jesus Christ and that we are to abide by His commandments. Having been cleansed by Christ's precious blood in baptism, we may communicate directly with the heavenly Father through prayer without the mediation of priests. We also have the wonderful privilege of entering His eternal kingdom in the future.

Partaking of the Holy Communion

METHOD

The elements of the Holy Communion consist of one bread, made without yeast, and grape juice. The worker administering the sacrament (usually an elder, deacon, or preacher) gives thanks for the bread in the name of the Lord Jesus, breaks it and distributes it to the congregation, which says a silent prayer before partaking of it. The grape juice is also received in a like manner. All the bread and grape juice must be consumed on the same day.

PARTICIPANTS

To partake of the Holy Communion, we need to have been baptized in the true church and must not have committed any serious sin. The Holy Communion is to be received in a thoughtful and worthy manner. During the Communion, we should examine ourselves, repent of our sins, and remove any grudges against others.

The Sabbath Day

Sabbath observance is a subject vaguely known by many, but truly reckoned with by few. And you ask, "Why should I take it seriously? After all, it's just another ritual." The Sabbath is not a ritual. It is a special day which God has hallowed and blessed at the completion of His creation. He has made the Sabbath for us so that we may rest from a week of hard work on this day and remember our Creator for His unfailing care and providence.

Why Keep the Sabbath?

SACRED DAY OF REST

The Sabbath reminds us of the grandeur of God's creation; it points clearly to the Creator and to His immense providence and grace. As God Himself rested on the seventh day of Creation to set an example for us, He also wants us to be refreshed physically, mentally, and spiritually through worshipping Him and keeping this day holy.

GOD-GIVEN SIGN

Sabbath observance is also a sign between God and His worshippers. It is an identity that every citizen of God's holy nation carries. By keeping this day holy, we acknowledge that God is our Lord, who sanctifies us and strengthens us against the temptations of this world.

HOPE OF ETERNAL REST

All the more, the Sabbath is a day to remember the salvation of God. It is a constant reminder that Jesus died on the cross to redeem us from the bondage of sin and to give true rest to our souls. In the same way, the Sabbath urges us to look forward to the blessing of the eternal rest in the heavenly kingdom. It is the constant renewal of this hope that guides God-fearing people on the path to everlasting life.

Only for the Jews?

Many professing Christians have been taught that believers today no longer need to keep the Sabbath day since it was meant only for the Israelites of the Old Testament. But the Bible makes it clear that Sabbath observance is a commandment to every God-worshiper.

DIVINE COMMAND

God decreed Sabbath observance in the Ten Commandments, which outline God's basic requirements for all human beings. So to keep the Sabbath is in fact a moral obligation to our Creator regardless of our ethnic background.

TRANSCENDS RACE

God made the Sabbath day at the end of the Creation week, long before the Israelite nation existed. He set this day aside as a blessed day of rest. Every seventh day of the week, therefore, is to be honored by peoples of all races and nationalities. The Lord Jesus, being the Creator and Lord of the Sabbath, declared that "the Sabbath was made for man" (Mark 2:27). "Man," of course, extends to *all* humanity and is not confined just to the Jewish nation.

TRANSCENDS MOSAIC LAW

The origin of the Sabbath precedes the institution of the Mosaic laws. As such, although Christ has freed us from the strict Sabbatic regulations under the Mosaic laws, the Sabbath day still remains; and Christians still need to keep the Sabbath as a sacred day of rest.



ORIGIN OF SUNDAY WORSHIP

Ample evidence from history shows that the celebration of Sunday originated from pagan practices of sun worship. In March of 321 A.D., the Roman Emperor Constantine, who was at first a sun-worshiper and later a Christian convert, issued the first decree declaring Sunday to be a legal day of rest. In 336 A.D., the Roman Catholic church officially changed the observance of Sabbath to Sunday for political and economic expediency. Since then, the original Sabbath gradually gave way to Sunday observance and the practice remains to this day.

The biblical Sabbath, however, is and has always been on the seventh day of the week, or Saturday. Despite the prevalence of Sunday worship in Christendom, we must look to the Bible as our authority and keep the seventh-day Sabbath ordained by God.

Which Day Is Sabbath?

SEVENTH DAY

The biblical Sabbath is on the seventh day of the week, or Saturday. This fact was made clear at the time of Creation. God rested on the seventh day of the Creation week; the Israelites kept the seventh-day Sabbath; the Lord Jesus kept the Sabbath, as was His custom; the apostles and members of the church in the New Testament observed the seventh day as the Sabbath day. Today, God wants all believers to honor this day as well.

LORD'S DAY

God specifically set the seventh day apart from all other days of the week and blessed this day. The Scriptures also remind us to keep this day holy unto the Lord. Since the Sabbath day is the Lord's appointed day, not a day of our own choice, we must observe this day to the Lord just as He commanded.

Observing the Sabbath

HONOR IT

The Sabbath is a day of rest. We are to rest from worldly tasks and cares and dedicate this day solely to God. The Bible tells us to "call the Sabbath a delight and the Lord's holy day honorable, and if [we] honor it by not going [our] own way and not doing as [we] please or speaking idle words, then [we] will find [our] joy in the Lord" (Isaiah 58:13–14 NIV).

DEDICATE IT TO GOD

Worship service, prayer, Bible study, and fellowship are all spiritually edifying activities that help us focus our minds on the things of God. Through praises and offerings, we express our sincere gratitude to God for His salvation and daily provisions.

DO THE LORD'S WORK

The New Testament also gives us vivid scenes of Jesus preaching the gospel, caring for the sick and doing good deeds on the Sabbath. We should imitate our Lord and devote this day to performing good deeds.

Salvation

“Am I saved?” This is the single most important question that each of us must face before we end our short and transient days in this world. Maybe you have been living in shame and darkness; maybe your life seems empty and aimless; maybe you have come to the end of your rope and have no one to turn to. It’s time to reach out your hand to Jesus. He is the only Savior who can provide meaning to your life and hope of an everlasting life.

What is Salvation?

We always hear the word “salvation” from the mouths of professed Christians and evangelists. But, what is salvation? Saved from what?

Webster’s dictionary defines “save” as “to rescue or preserve from harm or danger.”

Applying this definition to the biblical context, salvation is rescue from the power of Satan and sin leading to eternal punishment in hell. The goal of salvation is for human beings to restore their relationship with God, receive eternal life, and enter the heavenly kingdom in the future.

Why Do I Need Salvation?

Here is a common reaction to the subject of sin: “yeah, I do make little mistakes every now and then, but eternal punishment in hell? No way! That’s for people who are really evil and commit outrageous crimes, not me.”

THE BIBLE DEFINES SIN

As far as God is concerned, disobedience to His laws is sin, and the result is eternal death. Failure to worship and honor the true God who created us is in itself a great sin. Not only so, we are often selfish, dishonest, jealous; and our hearts are filled with hatred, bigotry, greed, and lust. In God’s eyes, we sin daily in our speech, in our conduct, and in our thoughts.

EVERYONE HAS SIN

The Bible places everyone in the world—old and young, men and women, rich and poor, well-educated and unschooled, past and present—under the category of “sinners”: “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). However virtuous we may think of ourselves, we are actually sinners who deserve punishment for our transgressions. All of us desperately need to be saved from the dreadful end of eternal condemnation.



HOW CAN I BE SAVED ?

Who Can Save Me?

THE ONLY SAVIOR

No one other than the true God Himself. It is God who prescribes the Law for human beings; so only He has the sovereign authority to condemn and the power to save humankind.

For this reason He came to the world in the flesh as Jesus Christ. He came without sin and lived a holy and blameless life on earth. He not only overcame sin in His lifetime, but conquered sin and death by offering Himself as a perfect sacrifice on the cross for our sins and by the power of His resurrection.

The blood of Jesus Christ, shed on the cross, opens the way back to God for everyone who puts his faith in the Savior. After He ascended to heaven, the Lord Jesus also poured out the Holy Spirit on the believers so that they may lead a holy life just as He did.

When Can I Be Saved?

Now. Accept the Lord Jesus as your Savior today and submit yourself to His word while the door of grace is still open. Tomorrow may be too late.

BELIEVE

- » Believe in God's existence and trust His sovereign power.
- » Acknowledge that the Lord Jesus is the one and only God.
- » Accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Submit to God's word—the Bible, and to the gospel of salvation preached by the true church.

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."
(ACTS 16:31 NIV)

REPENT

- » Confess to God, with sincerity and humility, all your past sins, be they transgressions in your daily life, refusal to believe in God, or belief in false doctrines.
- » Ask for the Lord's forgiveness.
- » Determine to change your ways and to obey the commandments of God.

"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord." (ACTS 3:19 NIV)

BE BAPTIZED

- » Accept baptism performed by the true church according to biblical instructions for the remission of your sins.

"He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."
(MARK 16:16)

RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

- » Pray sincerely and earnestly for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit, evidenced by the speaking of tongues.
- » Live by the Holy Spirit and become a new person.

"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." (JOHN 3:5)

OBEY THE COMMANDMENTS

- » Love God by practicing His word.
- » Love others as yourself by doing good deeds.

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven." (MATTHEW 7:21)

The Coming of Christ

Jesus Christ once came to this world, lived in obscurity, endured the scorn of His contemporaries, and suffered a shameful death. He was raised to life and taken back to heaven in the presence of His followers. Before leaving this world, He promised that He will come again, but this time, with great might, splendor, and majesty. His coming will be the most dramatic event in human history. He will descend on the clouds, surrounded by His heavenly hosts. Every eye will behold this awesome sight and no one will escape from His presence. Are you ready to meet Him?

The Day of the Lord

A FEARFUL DAY

A day of dread. A day of trembling. A day of vengeance. Who can withstand the wrath of the Lord when He strikes the wicked and condemns the disobedient? People from every nation will mourn for their iniquities and for their rejection of the only Savior.

A JOYFUL DAY

The second coming of Christ will also be a day of exhilaration for all true Christians. It will be the day when they will finally meet the Savior whom they have longed for. It will be the day when Christ will reign with justice. The Lord Jesus will send His angels to gather His loved ones and receive them to the glorious kingdom above. He will bless them with eternal happiness and reward them richly for their labors on earth.

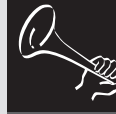
When Will He Come?

SIGNS OF HIS COMING

No one knows the exact day of the Lord's coming. However, the Bible has foretold of many signs which point to the imminence of this event. Constant wars, famine, earthquakes, rise of anti-Christ, religious persecution, and a steep decline of morality are all clear indications that Christ's return may occur any day now.

CERTAINTY OF HIS COMING

The Bible, in both its testaments, is filled with prophecies concerning the approximate time of, and the situations preceding, the Lord's return. These prophecies have drawn the attention of countless Christians who take this matter to heart. Eschatology, the study of the end of the age, can take up volumes and cannot be discussed in detail here. Yet one thing is certain: prophecies in the Bible tell us that the second coming of Christ will surely take place, and it will not be in the distant future.



What Should You Do?

ACCEPT THE SAVIOR NOW

Be prepared to meet the Lord. Your refusal to accept Christ now can only render you speechless when the Lord calls you to His judgment throne and questions you, "Why did you not accept the salvation and eternal life I had offered to you?"

EAGERLY WAIT FOR HIM

However, you do not have to fear Christ's second coming or His judgment. God is giving you the opportunity to come to know Him. Believe in the Lord Jesus today. Walk on the path of salvation He has prepared. Obey His word and be watchful through constant prayer. Proclaim the gospel and the coming of God's kingdom. The Lord has in store for the believers glory and riches that far exceed our imagination. He is coming soon to take us to His heavenly home. All Christians have this wish, and may it also be your sincere wish: "Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20).

WHY WILL HE COME ?

To Receive the Saved Ones

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."
(1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

To Judge the Unrepentant

"Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." (Jude 14-15)

To Reward the Righteous

"Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'" (Matthew 25:34)

To Establish His Kingdom

"Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed."
(Daniel 7:14)

To Destroy All Physical Existence

"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare."
(2 Peter 3:10 NIV)

To Create a New Universe

"Then I saw 'a new heaven and a new earth,' for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea."
(Revelation 21:1 NIV)

MAJOR EVENTS CENTERING ON CHRIST'S SECOND COMING

- » Completion of world evangelism
- » Global tribulation
- » Final world war — "Armageddon"
- » Christ's appearance and descent
- » Resurrection of the dead
- » Believers taken to meet with Christ
- » Universal destruction
- » Final judgment
- » A new heaven and a new earth

Please note: The exact order and details of these events are uncertain and still require further study.

Amen

“surely” or “truly” in Hebrew; expression of sincerity used after prayer.

Angels

celestial beings who are God’s ministering spirits.

Apocalypse

divine revelation; the Book of Revelation in the Bible.

Apostolic Days

period in Christian church history when the Apostles, the chosen disciples of Jesus, were alive.

Armageddon

according to Revelation, the place where the final war between the forces of good and evil will take place.

Baptism

immersion; **Baptism of water** means immersion in natural, flowing water; **Baptism of the Holy Spirit** refers to being filled with the promised Holy Spirit, and its evidence is the speaking of unknown tongues.

Bible

God’s word to human beings in written form.

Christ

the Anointed; Jesus — the Savior foretold in Old Testament prophecies.

Church

assembly of people redeemed by the blood of Christ.

Cross

structure erected to put criminals to death.

Crucifixion

death on the cross.

Deacon

member who has been ordained by the church to tend to the faith of the congregation, conduct sacraments, and set good examples for others.

Elder

title given to member who is at least 50 and has ministered in the Church for at least 7 years; his primary function is to oversee the Church and watch over the members’ spiritual well-being.

Footwashing

sacrament establishing a spiritual relationship between a believer and Jesus Christ.

Hallelujah

“Praise the Lord” in Hebrew; expression of praise and exaltation.

Heavenly Kingdom

eternal dwelling place beyond the physical realm that God has prepared for the saved ones.

Hell

place of extreme torment, prepared for Satan and souls of the unsaved.

Holy Communion

sacrament remembering and proclaiming the Lord’s death. Participants partake of one unleavened bread and grape juice, which spiritually become the body and blood of Jesus after prayer.

Holy Spirit

Spirit of God; in the New Testament, the promised Holy Spirit dwells within believers as a personal Counselor.

Jesus

the name of God; God’s manifestation in fleshly form as the Savior of the human race.

Latter Rain

Spring rain preceding harvest in Palestine; prefiguration of the second outpouring of the Holy Spirit on believers in the last days.

Miracle

act of God, usually one that surpasses known human or natural powers.

Passover

annual festival during which the Israelites celebrate God's deliverance of Israel from the bondage of Egypt. On the night of the first Passover, the angel that killed the firstborn of Egypt passed over the houses of the Israelites.

Pentateuch

books on the Mosaic Law; the first five books of the Bible, which are also known as the Torah.

Prayer

communion with God by petition, praise, and thanksgiving.

Preacher

full-time minister whose duties are prayer, preaching, attending to members' spiritual needs, and conducting sacraments.

Prophecy

divinely inspired prediction or message for the purpose of warning or exhortation.

Redemption

deliverance, paid for by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, from sin and eternal death. See *Salvation*.

Regeneration

spiritual rebirth; restoration of eternal life and beginning of a new life.

Repentance

confession of and contrition for sin; see *Sin*.

Sabbath

day of rest; the weekly Sabbath is on the seventh day of the week (Saturday).

Sacrament

observance, demonstrated and commanded by Jesus, that has direct relationship to a person's salvation.

Salvation

divine deliverance of human beings, through Jesus Christ, from sin and eternal death.

Satan

spirit of evil force; chief adversary of God and His people.

Second Coming of Christ

Jesus' second and final coming to this world as King and Judge of all the earth.

Silent Prayer

moment of meditation to prepare one's mind for worship or personal devotion, or to give thanks to God from the heart.

Sin

disobedience of God's spoken or written laws.

Speaking in Tongues

speaking of an unintelligible language by the movement of the tongue; evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Ten Commandments

God's ten basic commandments to human beings regarding their moral duties to God and to one another (Exodus 20:1–17; Deuteronomy 5:6–21).

Testament (Old and New)

God's covenant with human beings; major division of the Bible (the New Testament begins with the birth of Jesus Christ).

Jesus the True God

God's Essence

Spirit	Jn 4:24
Self-existing	Ex 3:14; Heb 7:3
Eternal	Isa 40:28; 44:6
Transcendent.....	Ps 113:4–6; 1 Kgs 8:27
Immanent	Eph 1:23; 4:6; Acts 17:26–28

God's Attributes

Omnipresent.....	Ps 139:7–12
Omnipotent	Mt 19:26; Jer 32:17, 27
Omniscient	Heb 4:13; Ps 139:1–4
Holy	Lev 11:44; Ps 99:5
Jealous.....	Ex 34:14; Deut 4:24
Loving	1 Jn 4:8, 16
Faithful.....	Deut 7:9; 1 Cor 1:9
Just	Deut 32:4; Ps 97:2
Merciful	Ps 86:15; 145:8–9

God's Role in Creation

Creator.....	Gen 1:1; Heb 3:4; 11:3
Ruler	2 Chr 20:6; Ps 95:3–7
Savior.....	Jn 3:16–17
Judge	Ps 96:13; Acts 17:31

Divinity of the Lord Jesus

Creator.....	Col 1:15–16; Heb 1:10
God's incarnation	Jn 1:1, 14; Col 2:9
God's name.....	Jn 5:43; 17:11

"Jesus" in Hebrew = the LORD our Savior

Only Savior	Acts 4:10, 12
Risen Christ	Rom 1:4; Acts 2:32–33
Judge	Acts 10:42
King of kings.....	Rev 17:14

Holy Bible

A Book with Authority

God-breathed.....	2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet 1:20–21
Infallible	Mt 5:18; Ps 19:7; 119:89
Living	1 Jn 1:1–2; Heb 4:12

How to Study the Bible

Read it	Acts 17:11
Think about it	Ps 1:2; 119:97
Do what it says	Jas 1:22–25

The Bible at Work

Directs our way	Ps 119:105, 133
Examines our thoughts.....	Heb 4:12
Transforms our lives.....	2 Tim 3:16–17
Saves our soul	Jn 5:39; Jas 1:21

Church

Identity of the Church

Assembly of the redeemed	Acts 20:28
Body of Christ.....	Eph 1:22–23; Col 1:24
Speaks of the word of Christ	1 Tim 3:15; Eph 2:20
Has the Spirit of Christ.....	Rom 8:9; 1 Cor 12:13
Manifests the power of Christ	Mk 16:17–20; Heb 2:3–4; Acts 14:3
Expresses the nature of Christ.....	Eph 4:11–16; Jn 8:31; 15:8; 13:35

Name of the Church

Upholds God's name—Jesus	Mt 18:20; Acts 4:10–12; Jn 17:11; Ex 20:24; 2 Chr 7:16
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"True Jesus Church" 1 Jn 5:20; Jn 15:1, 5; 17:3

Mission of the Church

Proclaim the gospel	Mt 28:19–20; Acts 1:8
Attend to members' needs.....	Jn 21:15–17

Baptism

Source of Cleansing

Blood of Jesus.....	Rev 1:5; 1 Pet 1:18–19
Unity of blood, water, and Spirit	1 Jn 5:6–8

Effect of Baptism

Remission of sins	Acts 2:38; 22:16
Regeneration	Tit 3:5; Rom 6:3–4; Jn 3:5
Salvation	Mk 16:16; 1 Pet 3:21
Divine sonship	Gal 3:26–29

Way of Baptism

The baptist

Member of the true church.....	Mt 16:18–19
Has received the Holy Spirit.....	Jn 20:21–23

The candidate

Believes.....	Mt 16:16; Acts 18:8
Repents.....	Acts 2:38

Method

In the name of the Lord Jesus	Acts 2:38; 10:48; 19:5
Head bowed.....	Rom 6:5; cf Jn 19:30; Lk 18:13
Fully immersed.....	Mk 1:9–10; Acts 8:38–39; cf Jn 3:23

"Baptism" in Greek = immersion

In natural flowing water	Jn 3:23; Zech 13:1; Mic 7:19
Once in a lifetime.....	Heb 6:4–8; 10:26–31

The Promised Holy Spirit

What is the Holy Spirit

The Spirit of God and Jesus Christ	Rom 8:9
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Works of the Holy Spirit on Believers

Justification.....	1 Cor 6:11
Sanctification	2 Thess 2:13; Rom 15:16
Testimony of sonship	Rom 8:16
Revelation of the truth	Jn 14:26; 16:13
Victory over sin	Rom 8:2
Intercession	Rom 8:26–27
Power from above	Acts 1:8; Eph 3:16
Witness of Jesus' resurrection.....	Acts 2:32–33

Rebirth through the Holy Spirit

Receive the Holy Spirit	Acts 2:38
Speaking in tongues	Acts 10:45–46; 2:1–4; 19:6
Can be seen and heard	Acts 2:33; 8:18
Be renewed by the Spirit	Tit 3:5–6; Ezek 36:26–27
Walk by the Spirit.....	Gal 5:25; Rom 8:4–6

How to Receive the Holy Spirit

Believe in God and His word	Gal 3:14; Eph 1:13; Mk 11:24
Repent and be baptized	Acts 2:38; Jn 9:31
Pray with importunity.....	Lk 11:8–13

Footwashing

Origin of the Footwashing

Commanded by the Lord Jesus..... Jn 13:14–17

Effect of the Footwashing

Having a part with the Lord Jn 13:8

Meaning of the Footwashing

Complete love..... Jn 13:1

Purified life..... Jn 13:10; Rom 6:11

Humble service Jn 13:12–14; Mk 10:42–45

Holy Communion

Origin of the Holy Communion

Instituted by the Lord Mt 26:26–29

Commanded by the Lord Lk 22:19; 1 Cor 11:25

Purpose and Effects of the Holy Communion

Remembering the Lord's death 1 Cor 11:24–26

Communion with Christ

and His church 1 Cor 10:16–17

Life in the Lord Jesus Jn 6:53

Resurrection on the last day Jn 6:54

Elements of the Holy Communion

Bread

The Lord's body..... Lk 22:19

One bread 1 Cor 10:16–17

Unleavened bread 1 Cor 5:6–8; cf Mt 16:5–12

Juice

The Lord's blood..... Mt 26:28

Grape juice Mt 26:29; cf Lev 10:8–9

Partaking of the Holy Communion

Baptism as a prerequisite 1 Cor 5:7–8; Ex 12:43, 45

Self-examination 1 Cor 11:27–29

Sabbath Day

Origin of the Sabbath

Divine institution..... Gen 2:1–3

Divine command..... Ex 16:23; 20:8–11

Divine covenant Ezek 20:12, 19–21

Universality of the Sabbath

Made for all humanity..... Mk 2:27

Included in the Commandments Ex 20:8–11

The Lord's day..... Lev 19:3, 30; 26:2; Mt 12:8

Above race..... Isa 56:6–7

Sabbath Observance in the New Testament

By the Lord Jesus..... Lk 4:16; 13:10; Mk 6:2

By the disciples Lk 23:55–56

By the church..... Acts 15:21

By the apostle Paul..... Acts 13:13–14; 16:13;
17:1–2; 18:4

The Way to Keep the Sabbath

Honor the day Gen 2:3; Isa 58:13–14

Remember God's creation..... Ex 20:11

Rest from worldly tasks..... Ex 20:8–11

Receive God's word..... Lk 4:16; Acts 13:44; 15:21

Perform good deeds Mt 12:9–13; Lk 13:10–17

Look forward to the eternal rest..... Heb 4:1, 9–11

Way of Salvation

Meaning of Salvation

Deliverance from Satan Acts 26:18

Deliverance from sin..... Mt 1:21

Deliverance from death Jn 3:16

Deliverance into God's kingdom 2 Tim 4:18

Need for Salvation

All have sinned..... Rom 3:23

We cannot save ourselves..... Rom 3:20

The Savior

God through Jesus Christ..... Acts 4:10–12

Path of Salvation

Believe Acts 16:31; Jn 3:15–16

Repent Acts 3:19; 2:38

Be baptized..... Mk 16:16; 1 Pet 3:21

Receive the Holy Spirit Jn 3:5; Tit 3:5–6

Obey the Commandments Mt 7:21; 19:17

Coming of Christ

The Day of the Lord

Feared by the wicked

and unrepentant Rev 1:7; Mt 24:30

Longed for by the saved Phil 3:20; Rev 22:20

Prophecies in the New Testament

Foretold by Christ Himself Mt 26:64; Lk 21:27

Foretold by angels Acts 1:10–11

Foretold by the apostles 2 Pet 3:9–10; Heb 9:28

Time unknown Mt 24:36; Lk 12:40;
1 Thess 5:2

Near at hand Phil 4:5; Jas 5:8; Rev 22:7

Purpose of the Second Coming

To receive the saved ones..... 1 Thess 4:16–17; Jn 14:1–3

To judge the wicked Jude 14–15; Lk 12:45–48

To reward the righteous Mt 25:34; Col 3:4

To establish His kingdom Dan 7:13–14; Rev 11:15

To destroy all physical existence 2 Pet 3:10, 12; Heb 1:12

To create a new universe 2 Pet 3:13; Rev 21:1

Preparing for the Second Coming

Accept the Lord 2 Thess 1:7–9; Isa 55:6–7

Obey the Lord..... Mt 7:21–23

Preserve purity 1 Thess 5:23; 1 Tim 6:14

Keep watch Mk 13:32–37; Lk 12:37–40

Congregate with other members Heb 10:25

Be filled with the Spirit Mt 25:1–13; 1 Jn 2:28

Be a faithful steward..... Mt 25:14–30; Lk 12:42–44

Perform deeds of love Mt 25:31–46; 1 Pet 4:7–8

Our Basic Beliefs

Basic Beliefs //
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