

## ARTICLES OF FAITH OF SOUTHLAND BAPTIST TEMPLE

The following is what we BELIEVE and TEACH at Southland Baptist Temple.

### I. The Scriptures

Southland Baptist Temple believes in the Bible. We believe the Bible (from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21) is the Word of the Almighty God. We acknowledge the Bible was written over a 1,500-year span by over 40 inspired authors, on three continents, at various locations, at different times, and in three languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek). This is the miracle of the Bible and why we know it to be inspired, infallible, and inerrant in its original writing.

### II. God

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, totally infinite, intelligent and sovereign, the Creator and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and Earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; that in the unity of the Godhead, there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, equal in every Divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of Redemption. Exodus 20:2-3; Matthew 28:19; John 10:30, 17:5; Philippians 2:5; 2 Corinthians 13:14.

### III. Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ was in the beginning with God and made flesh by the miraculous Conception and Virgin Birth. He was the begotten baby of the Holy Spirit in a miraculous manner. Born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can be born of a woman, and that He is both the Son of God, and God, the Son. John 1:1-14; Colossians 1:15-19; Galatians 4:4; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:35.

#### a. His Earthly Life

Christ lived a perfect life upon earth, tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:22.

#### b. His Death

Christ died on the Cross for our sins (took the sinner's place and died for the sinner's sins) according to the scriptures. The just one (Christ) dying for the unjust one (the sinner) that He might bring us to God. 1 Corinthians 15:1-3; 2 Corinthians 5:22; 1 Peter 1:18-19; John 1:29; Luke 22:33-46; Galatians 3:13.

#### c. His Resurrection

We believe that Christ rose from the grave bodily, upon the first day of the week, according to the scriptures. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; John 20; Matthew 28:6-7.

#### d. His Ascension

We believe that Christ ascended back to Heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Throne of God; and that He alone is our "merciful and faithful High Priest," our (believer's) advocate and mediator for the lost. Acts 1:9; Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 Timothy 2:5; 1 John 2:1-2.

### IV. The Holy Spirit

A Divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son, and of the same nature, that He was active in the Creation: He is the part of the Godhead on earth today. He convicts the sinner of sin, of judgment, and of righteousness; He bears witness to the truth of the Gospel; He is the agent in the New Birth; He seals, endures, fills, guides, teaches, comforts, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer. John 14:16-17; Genesis 1:1-3; John 3:3-6; Ephesians 1:13-14; John 16:8-11, 15:26-27, 16:13, 14:26.

V. **Satan**

We believe that Satan was once angelic, and enjoyed heavenly honors, but through pride and ambition to be the almighty, fell and drew after him a host of angles; that he is now the malignant prince of the power of the air, and unholy ruler of this world. We hold him to be man's great tempter, the enemy of God and His Christ, the accuser of the Saints, the author of all false religions, the chief power back to the present apostasy; the lord of the Antichrist, and the author of all powers of darkness—destined, however to final defeat at the hands of God's Son, and to the judgment of an eternal justice in Hell, a place for him and his angles. Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:14-17; Revelation 12:9-10; Jude 6; Matthew 4:1-3; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 19:16 & 20, 20:1-3, 20:10; Matthew 25:41.

VI. **Creation**

We believe in the Genesis account of Creation, and that it is to be accepted literally, allegorically, and figuratively, that man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species, a development through interminable periods from lower to higher forms. Man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness. All animal and vegetable life were made directly by the Almighty God, and God's established law of reproduction was that they should bring forth only "after their kind." Genesis 1:11; 24-27; 2:21-24; Exodus 20:11; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16-17.

VII. **The Fall of Man**

We believe that humanity was created and made in innocence under the law of his maker (God), but by voluntary transgression fell from their sinless and happy state, in consequence of which all humankind are now sinners, by nature, (birth) and by choice, and therefore, under just condemnation without defense or excuse. Genesis 3:6 & 24; Romans 4:12 & 19; 3:10-19; Romans 1:18, 20, 28, & 32; Galatians 3:22.

VIII. **Atonement for Sin**

We believe that the salvation of sinners is of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who by the appointment of the Father freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, honored the Divine law, by His personal obedience, and by His death, made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins. He is our all-sufficient Savior and there is none other. Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8; Isaiah 53; John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 1:4; 1 Peter 3:18, 22-24; Hebrews 2:14, 7:25, 9:12-15, & 12:2.

IX. **The New Birth**

We believe that to be saved, sinners must be born again; the New Birth is a new creation in Christ; it is instantaneous and not a process. The one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the Divine nature and receives eternal life, the free, gift of God. All of this is a Divine miracle by the power of the Holy Spirit in the connection with the Word of God.

X. **The Freeness of Salvation**

We believe in God's electing grace; that the blessing of salvation is made free to all by the Gospel; that is the immediate duty of all to accept it by a cordial, penitent, and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel. Isaiah 55:1; Revelation 22:17; Romans 10:13; John 6:37; John 3:18; 3:36.

a. **Eternal Salvation**

We believe in eternal security of salvation. That once a sinner truly accepts Christ, they obtain eternal redemption which cannot be lost. Hebrews 9:12.

b. **Predestination**

We affirm both God's sovereignty and human responsibility. We affirm Christ alone grants salvation and that an individual cannot experience salvation apart from the freewill and deliberate choice to accept Jesus Christ as Savior. While Jesus' death on the Cross was

sufficient for the sins of all humanity, it is only effective for those who have placed their faith in Christ alone for salvation. We further affirm and believe that faith in Jesus Christ comes through the presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Romans 10:17.

**XI. Justification**

We believe that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification. Justification includes the pardon of sin, forgiveness, removal of sin, and the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ; that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through the faith in the Redeemer's (Christ) blood; His righteousness is imputed unto us. Acts 13:29; Romans 5:1; Titus 3:5-7; Galatians 3:11; Romans 4:1-8.

**XII. Repentance and Faith**

We believe that Repentance and Faith are solemn obligations, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the quickening Spirit of God thereby, being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplications for mercy; at the same time, heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ, and openly confessing Him as our only and all-sufficient Savior. Acts 20:21; Luke 18:13; Romans 10:9-11 & 13.

**XIII. Heaven**

We believe that Heaven is a literal place where all saved sinners will spend eternity. Only those who have accepted Christ (Lord and Savior), will enter Heaven. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Matthew 7:21-23.

**XIV. Hell**

We believe Hell is a real place of torture and torment; where all unredeemed, as well as Satan and fallen angels, will spend eternity. Isaiah 14:15; Matthew 13:49-50, 25:41; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6; Revelation 20:10, 21:8.

**XV. The Local Church or Assembly**

We believe that a local church is a congregation of baptized believers associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinance of Christ; governed by His Word; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its officers are pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe that the true missions of the Church are found in the Great Commission. First, to make individual disciples; second, to baptize them by immersion in water; third, to teach and instruct as He has commanded in His Word. The local church has the absolute right of self-government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only Head is Christ. We believe that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; but, that every church is the sole and only judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final. Acts 2:42; Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:17-28; Matthew 28:19-20; Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 5:23-24.

**XVI. Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

We believe that scriptural baptism is the immersion in water of a believer; in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, with the authority of the local church, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem of our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that is pre-requisite to the privileges of Church Membership to the Lord's Supper; in which the Members of the Church, by sacred use of bread and juice, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination. Acts 8:36-39; Matthew 3:6; Romans 6:4-5; Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28.

## **XVII. Jesus' Second Coming as King**

We believe that Christ will come again to earth bodily, visibly, and personally. This coming is in two stages. The first stage is the coming of Christ in the air to catch away or call out the Redeemed from this earth up to meet Him in the air. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; 1 Corinthians 15:51-57. The second stage of His coming is when He comes back with His Saints to this earth. Zechariah 14:4; Acts 1:11; Revelation 19:11-16, 1:7-8.

### **a. The Resurrection of the Saints (The Rapture)**

We believe that there will be a Resurrection of the body of the saved and dead and a translation of the living Saints just before the Tribulation begins. We do not believe any part of the Church will go into any part of the Tribulation period. The Rapture of the Saints (all saved) will be the glorification of all believers. We will be given a glorified body "like unto His' (Christ's) glorious body." Philippians 3:2; 1 John 3:2; Luke 24:39 & 42; 1 Corinthians 15:49; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-57; 2 Thessalonians 2:2; Revelation 4:1.

### **b. The Judgment Seat of Christ**

We believe the Redeemed will stand before Christ and give an account of his works as a Christian. Our works will be judged, and we will be rewarded according to our faithfulness. This judgment takes place just after the Rapture. 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Chronicles 15:7; 1 Corinthians 15:58.

### **c. The Tribulation**

We believe there is going to be a time of seven (7) years special judgment and unusual, supernatural happenings upon this earth. The period begins just after the Rapture and will end at the Second Coming of Christ all the way to the earth. Matthew 24:21 & 22; Jeremiah 3:4-7; Ezekiel 20:34-38; Daniel 12:1; Revelation 6:9-11 covers the whole seven years.

### **d. The 1,000 Year Reign of Christ Upon Earth**

We believe that Christ will return to this earth (Zechariah 14:4; Revelation 19:11; Acts 1:11; John 14:3) and He will usher in the 1,000-year Kingdom upon this earth. Revelation 20:1-7; Isaiah 2:2-4, 11:4-5, 11:9; Zechariah 14:9 & 17, 19-21; Ezekiel 48:1-35; Luke 1:30-33; Hebrews 2:14; Obadiah 21; Psalms 72:8.

### **e. The Resurrection and Judgment of the Unredeemed**

We believe this Judgment is for the unredeemed. It will take place after the 1,000-year Reign of Christ on earth. The unredeemed will stand before God and face their record and be cast in the lake of fire where they will burn forever, yet never annihilated. Revelation 20:11-15; Matthew 7:22-23; Revelation 19:20, 20:10, 14:11.

### **f. The Burning Earth (End of the Age)**

After this, we believe the End of Time and the Eternal State is ushered in. 2 Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 21:1-6, 9, 13, & 20-21.

## **XVIII. Marriage/Sexuality**

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be pursued outside of marriage between a man and a woman. That any form of same-sex activity, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography is a sinful perversion of God's gift of sex. (Genesis 2:24, 19:5 & 13, 28:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1, 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4). We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one

man and one woman (Genesis 2:24; Romans 7:2; 1 Corinthians 7:2; Ephesians 5:22-23). We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes toward any individual shall be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture or the doctrines of the church.

**XIX. Sanctity of Human Life**

We believe that human life begins at conception and the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes that unjustified, unexcused taking of a human life, which is murder. We reject any teaching that abortion of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth, or population control, or for the mental well-being of the mother are acceptable. We also believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Job 3:16; Psalms 51:5, 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24, 49:1 & 5; Jeremiah 1:5, 20:15-18; Luke 1:44.

**END OF ARTICLES OF FAITH**