

What We Believe

Maranatha Baptist Temple

The Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Bible, as it is in truth, the Word of God (I Thessalonians 2:13). We believe in verbal, plenary inspiration in the original writings, and God's preservation of His pure words to every generation (II Timothy 3:16, Psalms 12:6-8). We believe the Bible is without error and that it is the supreme and final authority on all matters of faith and practice.

The Godhead

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons--Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections (Deuteronomy 6:4; II Corinthians 13:14).

The Person and Work of Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men (John 1:1-2, 14; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 9:6; 7:14; Philippians 2:5-8; Galatians 4:4-5). We believe that the Lord

Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His finished work on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Romans 3:24-25; I Peter 2:24; Ephesians 1:7; I Peter 1:3-5). We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate (Acts 1:9-10; Hebrews 9:24, 7:25; Romans 8:34; I John 2:1-2).

The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the equal with the Father & Son. He reproves the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, indwelling believers at the moment of salvation, and sealing them unto the day of redemption (John 16:8-11; II Corinthians 3:6; I Corinthians 12:12-14; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13-14). He guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and gives strength to every believer.

Creation

We believe that the universe and all that it contains was created by the spoken Word of God according to scripture, and that it is to be accepted literally. Man was created directly in God's own image and

after His likeness, making him distinct from all other living creatures. Man's existence was not a product of random chances, nor evolutionary change of species (Exodus 20:11; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 11:3; John 1:3; Genesis 1:1&24&26-27; 2:21-33; Revelation 10:6).

Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and that man is a sinner by birth and by choice, and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-23; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12).

The Way of Salvation

We believe that the clear message of salvation is "repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:21). We believe that when a person realizes that they are a sinner and in need of the Savior, if they believe that Jesus died for their sins and rose again, they can call out to Him and ask for Him to save them - and He will forgive their sins, adopt them into His family, and give them eternal life. (Romans 10:9-13, Ephesians 2:8-10; John 1:12; I Peter 1:18-19, 1 John 4:14-15).

Eternal Security

We believe that those who receive Jesus Christ as Savior are eternally secure. The security of the believer is not conditioned upon one's circumstances, emotional experiences or strength. The believer's security rests in the finished work of Jesus Christ and God's taking that responsibility as His own. We believe that eternal life is the present possession of every believer (John 10:27-30; Romans 8:31-34&38-39; I John 2:1-2; 5:11-13).

The Church

We believe that a local church is an organized body of believers baptized by immersion upon confession of faith in Jesus Christ, recognizing only two offices (pastor and deacon), sovereign in polity, and bonded together for work, worship, mutual edification, observance of the ordinances, and *the worldwide proclamation of the Gospel*. The church is autonomous and free of any external hierarchy, with Christ as its head (Matthew 16:18-19; Matthew 28:19-20; I Corinthians 12:12-31; Hebrews 10:25). We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).

The Ordinances of the Church

1. BAPTISM

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a born-again believer, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, to show forth in solemn and beautiful emblem their faith in the crucified, buried, risen and coming Savior, with its effect in their death to sin and resurrection to a new life and that it is a prerequisite for proper church relationship and a God blessed life. We hereby, declare that Maranatha Baptist Temple will receive into membership those who have been born again, and then baptized, in obedience to the command of Christ. (Romans 6:1-5; Acts 2:41; Acts 8:36-38).

2. THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that the Lord's Supper is an ordinance of the church in which born-again believers, by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination. We invite other Christians, after self examination, to participate in our communion service.

(I Corinthians 11:23-32; Luke 22:14-20, Acts 2:42).

The Return of Christ

We believe the "Blessed Hope" of our Lord's return is literal, personal, visible, imminent, premillennial, and pretribulation. He will rapture the saved prior to the seven years of tribulation, and at the end of the tribulation Christ will return with His saints to establish His

thousand-year reign on the earth (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; I Thessalonians 1:10; Revelation 3:10; Zechariah 14:4-11; Revelation 19:11-16, 20:1-6; Psalm 89:3-4).

Our Eternal State

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment

(Matthew 25:46; John 5:28, 29, 11:25-26; Revelation 20:5-6, 12-13).

We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; Revelation 20:4-6; II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23, 3:21; I Thessalonians 4:16-17). We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting, conscious punishment (Luke 16:19-26; Matthew 25:41-46; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 20:11-15).