

ARTICLES OF FAITH
of the
Nationals Outreach Worldwide Ministries, Inc.
Iron Station, North Carolina

I. ARTICLES OF FAITH

A. Of the Scriptures.

We believe that the Holy Bible is supernaturally inspired; that it is truth without error; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man; the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions shall be tried.

1. By the "Holy Bible" we mean that collection of sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, which does not only contain and convey the Word of God, but is the very Word of God.

2. By "inspiration" we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally and verbally inspired and free from error, as no other writings have ever been or ever will be inspired.

3. We further believe that God has preserved His Word in the Received Text. We believe that the Word of God translated in any language should be translated from the Received Text. We believe the A.V. 1611 King James Bible to be God's Word to the English speaking people.

II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:19-21; Acts 1:16; Acts 28:25; Psalms 119:160; Psalms 119:105; Psalms 119:130; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17; Luke 24: 44-45; Psalms 119:89; Prov. 30:5-6; Rom. 3:4; I Pet. 1:23; Rev. 22:19; John 12:48; Isa. 8:20; Eph. 6:17; Rom. 15:4; Luke 16:31; Psalms 19:7-11; John 5:45-47; John 5:39.

B. Of the True God.

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the maker 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 redemption.

Ex. 20:2-3; Gen. 17:1; I Cor. 8:6; Eph. 4:6; John 4:24; Psalms 147:5; Psalms 83:18; Psalms 90:2; Jer. 10:10; Ex. 15:11; Rev. 4:11; I Tim. 1:17; Rom. 11:33; Mark 12:30; Matt. 28:19; John 15:26; I Cor. 12:4-6; I John 5:7; John 10:30; John 17:5; Acts 5:3-4; I Cor. 2:10-11; Phil. 2:5-6; Eph. 2:18; II Cor. 13:14.

C. Of the Son of God.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary as no other man was ever nor can be born of a woman. He is very God of very God, being "God manifest in the flesh". He lived a life of absolute sinlessness and in His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins, dying not as a martyr, but as a voluntary substitute in the sinner's place. He rose from the dead on the third day and ascended bodily into heaven. He is coming again to rapture His saints, and to set up the throne of David and establish His Kingdom. The rapture coming is imminent and will be personal, pretribulational and premillennial.

Isa. 7:14; I Thess. 4:16; Matt. 1:18-25; Matt.28:6; II Thess.2:6-8; John 1:1; John 14:3; I Pet. 2:22; I Pet. 3:18; Acts 15:16.

D. Of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person; equal with God the Father, God the Son, and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of judgment, and of righteousness; that He bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent in the New Birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer.

John 14:16-17; Matt. 28:19; Heb. 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:35; Gen.1:1-3; II Thess. 2:7; John 16:8-11; John 15:26-27; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5-6; Eph. 1:13-14; Matt. 3:11; Mark1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; John 16:13; John 14:26; Rom. 8:14; Rom.8:16; II Thess. 2:13; I Pet. 1:2; Rom. 8:26-27.

E. Of the Devil, or Satan.

We believe that Satan was once holy, and enjoyed heavenly honors; but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell and drew after him a host of angels; that he is now the militant prince of the power of the air, and the unholy god of this world. We hold him to be man's greatest tempter, the enemy of God and his Christ, the accuser of the saints, the author of all false religions, the chief power back of the present apostasy, the lord of the anti-christ, and the author of all the powers of darkness, destined, however, to final defeat at the hand of God's own Son, and to the judgment of an eternal justice in hell, a place prepared for him and his angels.

Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:14-17; Rev. 12:9; Jude 6; II Pet. 2:4; Eph. 2:2; John 14:30; I Thess. 3:5; Matt. 4:1-3; I Pet. 5:8; I John 3:8; Matt.13:25; Matt. 37:39; Luke 22:3-4; Rev. 12:10; II Cor. 11:13-14; Mark 13:21-22; I John 4:3; II John 7; I John 2:22; Rev. 13:13-14; II Thess. 2:8-11; Rev. 12:7-9; Rev 20:1-3; Rev. 20:10; Matt. 25:41.

F. Of Creation.

We believe in the Genesis account of creation (i.e., one day equals 24 hours), and that it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively; that man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness; that man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species, or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms; that all animal and vegetable life was created by the direct act of God with His established law that they should bring forth only "after their kind".

Gen. 1:1; Ex. 20:11; Acts 4:24; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 11:3; John 1:3; Rev. 10:6; Rom. 1:20; Acts 17:23-26; Jer. 10:12; Neh. 9:6; Gen. 1:26-27; Gen. 2:21-23; Gen. 1:11; Gen. 1:24.

G. Of the Fall of Man.

We believe that man was created in innocence, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state, the consequence of which, all men are now sinners, not by constraint, but of choice, and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse.

Gen. 3:1-6; Gen. 3:24; Rom. 5:12; Rom. 5:19; Rom. 3:10-19; Eph. 2:1, 3; Rom. 1:18; Ezek. 18:19-20; Rom. 1:32; Rom. 1:20; Rom. 1:28; Gal. 3:22.

H. Of the Virgin Birth.

We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner; born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can ever be born of woman; that He is both the Son of God, and God, the Son.

Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; Mark 1:1; John 1:14; Psalms 2:7; Gal. 4:4; I John 5:20; I Cor. 15:47.

I. Of the Atonement for Sin.

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who by 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; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust, Christ, the Lord, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; that, having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven and uniting in His wonderful Person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, and is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all-suffering Savior.

Eph. 2:8; Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24; John 3:16; Matt. 18:11; Phil. 2:7; Heb. 2:14; Isa. 53:4-7; Rom. 3:25; I John 4:10; I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:21; John 10:18; Phil. 2:8; Gal. 1:4; I Pet. 2:24; I Pet. 3:18; Isa. 53:11; Heb. 12:2; I Cor. 15:20; Isa. 53:12; Heb. 9:12-15; Heb. 7:25; I John 2:2.

J. Of Grace in the New Creation.

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, not by culture, not by character, nor by the will of man, but wholly and solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with the divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life.

John 3:3; II Cor. 5:17; Luke 5:27; I John 5:11; John 3:6-7; Acts 2:41; II Pet. 1:4; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:11; II Cor. 5:19; Col. 2:13; John 1:12-13; Gal. 5:22; Eph. 5:9.

K. Of the Freeness of Salvation.

We believe in God's electing grace; that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent, and obedient faith; and nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel which rejection continues him in an aggravated condemnation.

I Thess. 1:4; Col. 3:12; I Pet. 1:2; Titus 1:1; Rom. 8:29-30; Matt. 11:28; Isa. 55:11; Rev. 22:17; Rom. 10:13; John 6:37; Isa. 55:6; Acts 2:28; Isa. 55:7; John 3:15-16; I Tim. 1:5; I Cor. 15:10; Eph. 2:4-5; John 5:40; John 3:18; John 3:36.

L. Of Justification.

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is Justification; that Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood His righteousness is imputed to us.

Titus 3:5-7; Rom. 1:17; Hab. 2:4; Gal. 3:11; Rom. 4:1-8; Heb. 10:38; Acts 13:39; Isa. 53:11; Zech. 13:1; Rom. 8:1; Rom. 5:9; Rom. 5:1.

M. Of Repentance and Faith.

We believe that Repentance and Faith are solemn obligations, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our soul 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 supplication 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; Mark 1:15; Acts 2:37-38; Luke 18:13; Rom. 10:13; Psalms 51:1-4; Psalm 51:7; Isa. 55:6-7; Luke 12:8; Rom. 10:9-11.

N. Of the Church.

We believe that the church with Christ as its head, is a congregation of baptized believers associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; exercising the gifts, rights and privileges in them by His Word; that its offices are Pastors (Elders, Bishops) and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures; we believe the true mission of the church is found in the Great Commission: first, to make individual disciples through the presentation of the gospel; second, to baptize these new believers, thus building the church; third, to teach and instruct these new converts as He has commanded, enabling them to go out and reach others. We do not believe in the reversal of this order. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the gospel; that every church is the sole and only judge for the measure and method of its cooperation. On all matters of membership, of polity, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final.

Acts 2:41; Acts 2:42; I Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; Eph. 4:11; I Cor. 12:4; I Cor. 12:8-11; Acts 14:23; Acts 6:5-6; Acts 15:23; Acts 20:17-28; I Tim. 3:1-7; I Tim. 3:8-13; Matt. 28:19-20; Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23-24; I Pet. 5:1-4; Acts 15:22; Jude 3, 4; II Cor. 8:23-24; I Cor. 16:1; Mal. 3:10; Lev. 27:32; I Cor. 16:2; I Cor. 6:1-3; I Cor. 5:11-13.

O. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, with the authority of the local church, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation and to the Lord's Supper in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and the fruit of the vine are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination.

Acts 8:39; Matt. 3:6; John 3:23; Rom. 6:4-5; Matt. 3:16; Matt. 28:19; Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12; Acts 2:41-42; Matt. 28:19-20; I Cor. 11:23-28.

P. Of the perseverance of the Saints.

We believe that only real believers will endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special providence watches over their welfare; and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto eternal salvation.

John 8:31-32; Col. 1:21-23; I John 2:19; Matt. 13:19-21; Rom. 8:28; Matt. 6:20; Psalms 121:3; Heb. 1:14; I Pet. 1:5; Phil. 1:6; John 10:28; John 10:29; John 16:8; Rom. 8:35-39.

Q. Of the Righteous and the Wicked.

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse, and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost.

Mal. 3:18; Gen. 18:23; Rom. 6:17-18; Prov.11:31; I Pet. 4:18; Rom. 1:17; I Cor. 15:22; Acts 10:34-35; I John 2:29; I John 2:7; Rom.6:16; I John 5:19; Gal. 3:10; Rom. 7:6; Rom.6:23; Prov. 14:32; Luke 16:25; Matt. 25:34, 41; John 8:21; Luke 9:26; John 12:25; Matt. 7:13-14.

R. Of Spiritual Gifts.

We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts; and that, the gifts of Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today; and that speaking in tongues and the working of sign miracles gradually ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established.

I Cor. 12:4-11; II Cor. 12:12; Eph. 4:7-12.

S. Of Separation.

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded by God.

II Tim. 3:1-5; Rom. 12:1-2; Rom. 14:13; I John 2:15-17; II John 9:11; II Cor. 6:14-7:1.

T. Of Civil Government.

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the coming Prince of the kings of the earth.

Rom. 13:7; II Sam. 23:3; Ex. 18:21-22; Acts 23:5; Matt. 22:21; Titus 3:1; I Pet. 2:13-14; I Pet. 2:17; Acts 4:19-20; Dan. 3:17-18; Matt.10:28; Matt. 23:10; Phil. 2:10-11; Psal. 72:11.

U. Of Missions.

We believe the command to give the gospel to the world is clear and unmistakable and this commission was given to New Testament, local churches.

Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; II Cor. 5:19-20.

V. Of the Grace of Giving.

We believe that Scriptural giving is one of the fundamentals of the Faith.

II Cor. 8:7; "Therefore as ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also".

We are commanded to bring our gifts into the storehouse (common treasury of the church) upon the first day of the week.

I Cor. 16:2; "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come".

Under Grace we give, and do not pay the tithe ("Abraham GAVE a tenth of the spoils", Heb. 7:2,4). This was four hundred years before the law and confirmed in the New Testament when Jesus said concerning the tithe, "These ye ought to have done". Matt. 23:23.

We are commanded to bring the tithe into the common treasury of the church.

Lev. 27:30; "The tithe is the Lord's".

Mal. 3:10; "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open up the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it".

In the New Testament it was common treasury of the church.

Acts 4:34, 35, 37; "And brought the prices of the things that were sold and laid them down at the apostles' feet.... Having land sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet".

W. Of the Resurrection and Return of Christ and Related Events.

We believe in and accept the sacred Scriptures upon these subjects at their face and full value. Of the Resurrection, we believe that Christ rose bodily "the third day according to the Scriptures"; that He ascended "to the right hand of the throne of God"; that He alone is our "merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God"; "that this same Jesus which was taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven".....bodily, personally and visibly; that the "dead in Christ shall rise first"; that the living saints "shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump"; "that the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His Father David"; and that "Christ shall reign a thousand years in righteousness until He hath put all enemies under His feet".

We believe in that "blessed hope", the personal, imminent, pretribulational, and premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones; and in His subsequent return to earth, with His saints, to establish His millennial kingdom.

Matt. 28:6-7; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; I Cor. 15:4; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2, 4-6; Acts 1:9; Acts 1:11; Luke 24:51; Mark 16:19; Rev. 3:21; Heb. 8:1; Heb. 12:2; Heb. 8:6; I Tim. 2:5; I John 2:1; Heb. 2:17; Heb. 5:9-10; John 14:3; I Thess. 4:16; I Cor. 15:42-44; I Cor. 15:52; I Cor. 15:51-53; I Thess. 4:17; Phil. 4:20-21; Luke 1:32; I Cor. 15:25; Isa. 11:4-5; Psalms 72:8; Rev. 20:1-4; Rev. 20:6.

X. Of the Eternal State.

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

We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery in hell until the second resurrection, when the 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.

Matt. 25:46; John 5:28; John 11:25-26; Rev. 20:5-6, 12-13; Luke 23:43; Rev. 20:4-6; II Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; Phil. 3:21; I Thess. 4:16-17; Luke 16:19-26; Matt. 25:41-46; II Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Mark 9:43-48; Rev. 20:11-15.



Nationals Outreach Worldwide Ministries, Inc.
5040 Penn Road
Iron Station, NC 28080

Copyright 2004 NOW Ministries