

EXPANDED DOCTRINAL STATEMENT OF MY PERSONAL CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

(Christian-Faith Doctrines)

(This is a living document.)

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SUMMARY OVERVIEW

(Detailed Doctrinal Statement Follows)

God - God, consisting of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, having eternal self existence, is a perfect, holy, righteous, and infinite God in every attribute and character quality. None are left out. He is without sin and has no darkness of any kind or amount. There is only one God. There are no others, and there cannot be any others.

God's Plan - He gave us His inerrant Holy Bible, His only authority on earth. This was for the purpose that we, responding to Him, could know His plan and align ourselves to it. He placed us on the earth in order to develop in us a high-skill spiritual ability in Christ-likeness for eternity purposes.

God's Purpose For Us - This spiritual ability is for the purpose that will live life with everything coming from Him as a source. This is necessary so that we can avoid sin. We have no inherent righteousness to do this. It is especially necessary that we can come to know and relate to Him in His depth and breadth in eternity, living holy and righteous lives, by love and by faith toward His fullest. It was so that we, together, in sacrificial love relationships to Him and to each other, give Him great glory, praise, and honor. Living this way, He, allowing us to exist and live, gives us the best life and existence that is possible to have, both now, but especially in eternity. God may have a plan to use this spiritual ability in other ways that we cannot know now. ***Knowing and relating to God in His perfect ways is the only thing there is. Everything else has no eternal meaning or value.***

Man's Beginning and Problems -God created the heavens and the earth. He created mankind, beginning with Adam and Eve. He placed them in the Garden of Eden to be tested for obedience to Him. Adam and Eve disobeyed God, thus, failing the test. This failure resulted in man receiving a fallen or sin nature that causes him to continually disobey, and thus, break God's spiritual laws. The Bible calls this sin. This fallen nature is passed on to all the race that follow Adam and Eve, being passed down from the man. This sin and depraved nature caused man to be translated into the Dominion of Satan from the Kingdom of God. This fallen nature then has three spiritual problems.

One is that because of the broken spiritual laws, God's holiness and righteousness requires that His Justice for man's sin be satisfied for man before man can be with Him in eternity. Otherwise God will satisfy His Justice in another way. He will place man under punishment in what the Bible calls the Lake of Fire - a type of eternal jail. The second is that man does not seek after God and has no ability to respond to God with the fallen nature to gain this needed spiritual ability. The third is that he must be translated from Satan's Dominion into the Kingdom of God in order to come under Christ's eternal control and be allowed in heaven.

Christ Brought the Solution to Man's Problems - God brought the solution to man's problems by His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, dying on the Cross. Dying on the Cross, He completely satisfied God's Justice for sin on the behalf of man. When man believes this happened according to the Scriptures, this satisfied Justice is applied to Him and God's condemnation for sin is removed from him. He receives a new type divine nature (not God's) or creation called newness of life that allows him to have God develop the spiritual ability in him. This divine nature cannot sin for it only respond to God - it cannot take independent thought and action. The new believer also retains the old sin nature that can still sin. Man must learn to use the divine nature in response to God so he can develop the needed

Expanded Doctrinal Statement of My Personal Christian Beliefs

spiritual ability in Christ-Likeness.

Man Must Accept God's Solution By Faith - For man to receive this satisfied Justice, he must, as God works in Him: (1) admit that he is a sinner, a breaker of God's spiritual laws and has need of salvation (Romans 3:23; 6:23; (2) believe that Christ did indeed satisfy God's Justice for sin for him on the Cross (Romans 1:16; 4:24-25; 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-9) and (3) receive this satisfied Justice personally by praying to God from his faith telling God he believes that Christ did satisfy this justice for sin, all according to the Scriptures (the Holy Bible) . His prayer activates his faith, and God saves him based on only his faith that has been activated. (John 1:12; Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9-10, 13).

When man does this as God works in him, God: (1) applies the satisfied justice to believing man; (2) allows him now to go to heaven to be with him eternally; and (3) gives man this new nature (a new creation) that allows man to respond to God using the Bible teachings so that God will begin to develop this spiritual ability in him.

Man is Called Out From the Dominion of Satan into the Kingdom of God - Man being born with the fallen nature resides in the Dominion of Satan. When one believes that Christ died on the Cross for sin, was buried, and was resurrected from the dead (called the Gospel), he is legally translated into the Kingdom of God. Being in the Kingdom of God, the Bible calls justified man His Church. The new believer has both the new divine nature and the old sin nature. The unbeliever has only the sin nature that does not seek after God.

Man Must Obey God to Have this Spiritual Ability Developed in Him - Man, using the new divine nature, now must learn to walk by faith, love, and hope in relationship living with God under the leading of His Holy Spirit in order for God to develop this spiritual ability in Christ-likeness in him. Whatever spiritual ability man has developed in his lifetime will be the degree that he will be able to get to know God in eternity.

The Job of the Church - The main job of the Church is to train her people with God's Whole Council so they, with God working in them, can reach this maximum mature spiritual ability in Christ-Likeness. The job of the Church is also to train and use her people to evangelize both local and foreign "total" areas and then disciple her converts to become mature in Christ. This is in contrast to working mainly for some spiritual growth and doing some evangelism.

Christ's Second Coming, Resurrections, and Final Judgments - Christ will come again to rapture and resurrect the Church and take her to the new Jerusalem to be with Him forever. He will reward the believers individually for their divine works. At His coming, he afterward will also resurrect all unbelievers and judge them individually according to their works and cast them into the Lake of Fire forever for punishment.

Conclusion - Man then must believe that Christ died on the Cross for sin in order for God to remove His condemnation from him, and then proceed to follow God by learning and obeying the Bible so that God will develop this spiritual ability in him. Because pursuing mature spiritual ability in Christ-Likeness is commanded and the testing environment of the world, flesh, and devil is not allowed in heaven, there is the most likely situation that the spiritual ability we have at death we will have forever without any further opportunity to increase or improve it. (We will not all have the same spiritual ability or God could have just created us that way in the beginning.)

Apart from going to heaven, and knowing and relating to God, there is nothing. Not to pursue and develop the maximum high skill spiritual ability we can have is a most terrible and eternal

mistake.

THE EXPANDED DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR US ON EARTH - *God's purpose for placing us on earth is to develop in us a personal mature high-skill spiritual ability in Christ-likeness in relationship living. This new ability is to be used in eternity to know Him and to live lives of perfect truth in absolute fellowship and unity with Him in relationship living.* This spiritual ability is founded on love and perfect truth so that we can know Him and relate to Him in His depth and breadth, both now but mainly throughout eternity. ***In eternity, it will be God all in all.***

Knowing and relating to God according to His ways is the only thing there is. He is the only one who is perfect, holy, righteous, and true. God is all truth, and He inherently has eternal self existence and possesses all perfect attributes and character qualities that allows for a perfect life - love, holiness, righteousness, and sacrificial service in complete unity with God. ***He is the only one that holds the future for us. Apart from being in eternity with God and knowing and relating to Him in His depth there is nothing.***

Having this spiritual ability of being in unity with God with maturity and high skill, we can: (1) walk in intimate relationship with Him and can get to know Him in His depth; (2) praise Him with great richness; (3) serve Him and each other with great sacrificial love; and (4) live holy and righteously before Him to the fullest. In this condition, He meets our every need. We will have unity relationship with Him, doing everything in common with Him. In eternity, He will share many new things with us that we cannot know now, things we have never and can never even think about. ***This is what God has planned for all of us.***

Because developing this Christ-like spiritual maturity in us appears to be the main reason God created us and put on the earth in this lifetime, we must not miss cooperating with Him so this happens. For this to occur, we must have salvation in Christ and, under His Holy Spirit, learn and apply specific truths and principles in unity relationship with Him.

In order for us to develop this spirituals ability, we are to seek to being in unity with Him in all things. We are to learn to live by faith in Him to bring results of His many promises to us so that we will not sin. The results then are based on His action and not on ours. We must learn to live by faith for Him to reveal more and more about Himself. We must learn to from our love for Him obey His commandments. This allows us to live holy and righteous lives. We are to learn to live by hope that things will always be good and have even greater revelation of God. We must learn to be sacrificial love servants to Him and to each other. A righteous life is centered in serving others, instead of depending upon and expecting to be served. Thus, because God is ultimately in charge, the Word of God must be our only source of a walk and ministry with God. This walk must be both academic and especially in practice. The high-skill comes only when this spiritual ability is lived out in actual practice.

Because God alone possesses and can have perfect character qualities and attributes (such as righteousness and holiness), all things for our lives must come from God as a source for everything. This includes salvation throughout our lifetimes for this spiritual ability to occur and be utilized so that we live without sin and by love, faith, and hope. We have no inherent righteousness. He must work in us, and we must respond to His work. For man to live holy and righteous, he must always take direction in all aspects of life continuously in real time from and led of

Expanded Doctrinal Statement of My Personal Christian Beliefs

God's Holy Spirit. This is how we will live in eternity. Man has no capability in himself, saved or unsaved, to live righteously and holy by himself. Our talents, gifts, and abilities are to be used to the fullest in response to God, but not for life's direction.

Thus, we should pursue becoming mature in Christ with all diligence and commitment. If we do not have this pursuit and its accomplishment, in relationship living as a sacrificial servant we have made a most terrible and eternal mistake. We will have greatly erred and not accomplished God's main purpose for us in this lifetime. (We are to do things because He is leading us to do them by His Holy Spirit, not because we believe it to be good things to do.) We can only reap what we sow and in the direction and amount we sow. Thus, in this lifetime, we should sow 90% or more of our time to God and to this purpose. ***The price is high to do this, but it is even higher if we do not.***

We must be trained and train others with God's Whole Counsel in its depth and breadth to know, believe, and live out its teachings at the mature and higher-skill levels. This Whole Counsel must include those teachings that allow us to stand, walk, and minister strong in Christ and His work. This result requires both academic and practical training in God's Whole Counsel (all of Scripture) in depth and breadth - a prepared curriculum. This curriculum consists of both positional and living-life doctrines, leading to a life of complete unity with God. ***We are to see that a unity walk with God is the most important and the highest value to us. There is nothing of more value or of more importance. Thus, we are to seek out what and how He wants things done and do them with commitment and excellence, without adding our own ideas.***

God in His omniscience sees and knows the past, present, and the future all at the same time. Thus, he sees what that will happen to us as already happened, even though in our life times, our events are sequential with our future events still coming. For example, Christ was crucified before the foundation of the world, before man was created, in God's view. God chose who would believe and what works they would do before the world's foundation.

(Psalm 133:1; John 5:19, 20; 14:15; 15:10, 26; 16:5, 7; 17:23; Acts 20:26-27; Romans 1:17; 8:18; 1 Corinthians 2:9; 13:13; 15:8; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 3:14-21; 4:11-13; Philippians 3:10; Ephesians 1:4; 2:10; 3:8, 19; 4:3, 13 Colossians 1:14, 28-29; Hebrews 6:1; 2 Timothy 3:15-16; James 1:2-4; 1 John 2:6; 4; 5:20; Revelation 13:8)

THE HOLY BIBLE - The Holy Bible (in its original languages and manuscripts), consisting of both the Old and New Testaments (only 66 books), is the inerrant and Holy Spirit inspired Word of God and is the *only* authoritative source there is from God. (No church, church leader, or any other person or book is the authority.) We are to live under its authority and our faith-love-hope obedience is to be based *only* on and from God's Word. We are not to add to it or subtract from it. Thus, we are not to use our own ideas for what we are to do and how we are to do things when the Bible is silent on the subject and when the Bible gives instructions on the subject. We can determine how we do things that the Bible instructs us for what we are to do when the instructions are not given in the Bible for how to do things. When we do and act on our own, we are (1) not acting in unity with God; (2) acting as our own authority; (3) doing what is right according to our own eyes; and (4) we trying ourselves to work all things together for good - all of which God is against. It is sin. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Revelation 22:18-19.)

THE ONE AND PERFECT GOD - There is *only one* God, and He is a perfect person and complete in every attribute and character quality. He is complete in Himself and has self existence. He is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent. There is not now and never will be another God. God is not made up of the sum of mankind or everything that exists, and mankind is not and cannot evolve to become a god or gods. (Deuteronomy 4:35; 6:4; 1 Samuel 2:2; 2 Samuel 7:22; 1 Kings 8:60; Isaiah

Expanded Doctrinal Statement of My Personal Christian Beliefs

43:10; 44:6; 45:5; Mark 12:29, 32; John 17:3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:6; 1 Timothy 2:5.)

CREATION - God created the heavens and the earth, mankind and angels, from the invisible world. Mankind and angels did not and cannot evolve, or occur by chance. (Genesis 1:1, 27; 5:1-2; Deuteronomy 4:32; Isaiah 42:5; 45:12, 18; John 1:3; Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:16; Revelation 5:13; 10:6.)

GOD IS A TRINITY OR TRIUNITY - God exists eternally as a Triunity consisting of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Accordingly, the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, has always existed and always will exist. (Christ was not created.) (Matthew 3:16-17; 15:26; 16:5, 7; 17:23; 18:19; John 1:1, 2; 15:26-27; 16:13-15; Romans 16:26; 1 Corinthians 2:11; 1 Peter 1:20.)

(In examining the Scriptures there appears to be two possibilities for the Triunity. The most accepted one is that God consists of three persons of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Father is the source of all things. The Son embraces the Father and does only the Father's will and work, never taking any independent initiative. The work of the Father, through the Son, is carried out by means of the Holy Spirit. Thus, in this model, we have the source of the Father for all things, the embracement of the Father by the Son to carry out His will, the interaction of the Source with the environment or result is carried out by the Holy Spirit. Thus, all of the Godhead are involved in all that God does such as in creation.

The less accepted and other and very likely possibility is that the Father is a triunity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (the infinite invisible God), and also the Son is a triunity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (the God that we will see). In other words, as the Bible directly teaches, there is but one God the Father and one Lord Jesus Christ, each in themselves being a triunity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (When Christ spoke of His Second Coming, He said only the Father knows of the time. He left out the Holy Spirit. The Bible teaches that one is not a Christian unless they have the spirit of Christ. The epistles are from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible teaches that God is the head of Christ, Christ is the head of man, and man is the head of woman. The Holy Spirit is not mentioned in either.) This is a similar divine model of source, embracement of source, and the way God interacts with the environment. But this model is more complex in its understanding. (Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 24:36; Mar 13:32; John 5:19-20; 14:16; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 11:3))

Which ever is the model of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are God. They have always existed without being created.

MAN IS CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD - As God is a triunity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, man is created in this image as a triunity of soul, body, and spirit. When we do things, we have motivation or purpose (the source of our actions), an action that flows from or embraces this motivation or purpose (actions that embrace our source), and a result or consequence of the actions. Thus, the way we live is founded on the image and triunity of God.

Thus, for one to have sin, either a mental or physical (or both) action must embrace the motivation or purpose from man as a source in order for a result of sin to occur. For God to respond to our faith, our faith must be activated by some action showing that the faith is living. We can have knowledge and faith that God will save us from our sins. But we must act from this faith for God to save us. Otherwise our faith exists (source), but it is dead faith (being without action or works embracement), and God does not save on this basis. We cannot save ourselves because our source (us) is unrighteous. (Genesis 1:27; 1 Corinthians 2:11; Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 4:12; James 1:15; 2:26)

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST - The Lord Jesus Christ came down from heaven to do the Father's will.

Expanded Doctrinal Statement of My Personal Christian Beliefs

He was born of a virgin (Mary) to fulfill prophecy as the coming Messiah. He was sent by the Father and conceived by the Holy Spirit in order to be the Son of God and have a divine nature (that allows Him not to sin), and not have a fallen nature as all mortal men have (that causes them to sin). (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-35, 38; 19:10; John 3:17; 6:38.)

SPIRITUAL WARFARE CAUSING MAN THROUGH TESTING TO CHOOSE TO OBEY GOD (CHRIST) OR SATAN IS USED TO MATURE CHRISTIANS - Man (Adam and Eve) was initially created perfect and sinless (but not with a divine nature) and placed in the Garden of Eden, but without much spiritual ability. He was led by God to be tested by Satan (called the serpent) as to whether or not he would obey God. Man being immature in spiritual ability chose to obey Satan. Man chose to obey Satan, disobeying God, so that he could have the knowledge of good and evil. This was so that He could have the wisdom (wisdom) in order to manage or run his own life apart from God. As a result of this disobedience, man received a fallen or sin nature that does not seek after God or to obey God. It causes man to sin, breaking God's laws. This sin nature is passed on to all people through the male. (This is why Christ had to be born of the Holy Spirit in Mary in order to have a divine nature that cannot sin.) Thus man is born into the world under the condemnation of God for sin, the breaking of His laws. Through the seed of the woman (Eve to Mary), God promised a Savior (Christ) that would destroy Satan. In the fall of man, Satan usurped the Kingdom of God that became the Kingdom of the World (and the Title Deed of the Earth) away from Christ. Thus, man is born into the Dominion of Satan. He must be saved out of it into the Kingdom of God. (This is one main reason why Christ on earth only offered the Kingdom of God to the Jews and not the Kingdom of Israel.)

There are holy angels under the leadership of Christ and evil angels are under the leadership of Satan. We do not have all the information, but Christ is bringing people to believe the Gospel, accomplish God's work, and take believers to maturity in Him. Satan is influencing people not to believe the Gospel and not to do God's works. Thus, he works to influence the Church to: (1) use only user-friendly elementary teaching; (2) not to do much evangelism outside the Church buildings; (3) believe in wrong spiritual doctrines - that is to establish many false religions (so many religions will look correct so that people will be confused and might not find Christ for true salvation); and (4) involve everyone in immorality so God cannot effectively use them and so they cannot find true salvation. He is also attempting to set himself up as world ruler through his man (the antichrist or beast out of the sea) so that through deception, the unbelievers will worship him as god. It is through Satan the testing environment of the world, flesh, and the devil was established. The testing is whether or not one will do, have, and become what God wants or what man (Satan) wants. Doing what man wants is called the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the boastful pride of life. These represent the source of why we do things. When we do what God wants, we are living trusting God to bring results. This is living under Grace. When we live the way we want, we trust ourselves to bring the results. This is living under law, including the law of sin and death.

(Genesis 3:1-7, 15; Mark 1:15; Luke 4:43; 18:1; John 3:3, 5; 18:36; Acts 1:3, 8; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 1:4-5; 2:10; 5:10-17; 1 John 2:15-17; Revelation 13)

UNBELIEVERS ARE UNDER GOD'S LAW - Being born physically under God's law and apart from God's help, and in order to go to heaven and be with God, one must obey God's Law perfectly all their lifetime without error (called sin). However, being born with fallen natures, all people will transgress and have transgressed, or broken, God's spiritual laws. All people are unable to obey God's Law perfectly. Thus, every person has sinned and has come short of God's glory (a perfect life, employing all perfect attributes and character qualities, according to absolute truth without any sin).

God's justice (holiness and righteousness) requires a payment (satisfied justice) for people breaking His spiritual laws (people being sinful) that they cannot satisfy or make payment. Thus, one cannot be

Expanded Doctrinal Statement of My Personal Christian Beliefs

resurrected after death and go to be with God in heaven after death and resurrection unless the justice for these broken spiritual laws is somehow satisfied. This is a legal courtroom situation.

God gave the Law as a tutor to lead us to Christ. It was to show that we could not obey the law and had need of a Savior that would satisfy God's justice on our behalf. We could not save ourselves. It was to show us that we must trust God, not ourselves, in living our lives if we are to be free from sin. Man has no inherent righteousness of his own.

(Hosea 13:14; 1 Corinthians 15:56; Romans 2:12-13; 3:9-20, 23, 28; 5:18; 6:23; 8:1, 28-29; Galatians 2:16; 3:11, 23-25; Hebrews 2:14; Revelation 20:11-15; 21:8.)

UNBELIEVERS ARE UNDER GOD'S CONDEMNATION - Thus, all people are born under and are held under God's condemnation under the custody of the Law and under the power of death until such time God's justice for their sin is satisfied on and applied to their behalf. Thus, all people are born condemned before God and after their resurrection and judgment are destined to be cast into the Lake of Fire (a type of prison) for the satisfaction of God's justice. (It should be noted that hell is not the Lake of Fire, but instead is the temporary place for unbelievers until their resurrection and judgment to be then cast into the Lake of Fire.) Left in this state, they cannot go to heaven to be with God. It appears that unbelievers will remain in the Lake of Fire forever in order to alternatively satisfy God's Justice. (There is the question as to whether or not the unbeliever can get out of the Lake of Fire after a very long period for the satisfaction of God's justice There is no direct teaching that unbelievers ever get out of the Lake of Fire. We must hedge against this not happening by being sure to receive the Gospel.) (Hosea 13:14; 1 Corinthians 15:56; Romans 3:9-20, 23; 5:18; 6:23; 8:1; Galatians 3:23; Hebrews 2:14; Revelation 20:11-15.)

CHRIST FULFILLED THE LAW - The Lord Jesus Christ, not having and never having a sin nature, lived a perfect life on earth without sin. He fulfilled (obeyed God perfectly) the Law perfectly. His perfect life demonstrated that He was qualified to die as a substitutionary sacrifice for all of mankind's sins. He had pure sinless blood.

(Isaiah 53:5, 10, 12; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 5:8-9; 1 Peter 1:18-19.)

JUSTIFICATION OR ETERNAL LIFE SALVATION

Christ's Death Satisfied God's Justice for Sin and Established the New Covenant for Salvation - Christ's Death on the Cross for sin, His burial, and His bodily resurrection from the dead on the third day, according to the Scriptures (called the Gospel), completely satisfied God's justice for everyone's sin (No one was left out). This Gospel is the power of God for salvation for every person who believes and receives it. He became sin for us who in Himself knew no sin. His blood purged out sin so that it no longer exists in the record books. In effect, this work being an atonement for iniquity, placed a covering over sin, so it could never be seen again.

Thus, Christ on the Cross established the New Covenant in His blood legally for salvation. The New Covenant is a legal contract between God and man that if one believes the Gospel, one will be saved and go to be with God in heaven - all based *only* on Christ's complete and finished work on the Cross, totally or completely apart from any effort or work of man. No one is saved apart from this New Covenant. Christ had to die to place the New Covenant into effect such as necessary to activate a last will and testament.

Christ's work on the Cross was completely efficacious, a complete work. Man cannot add to or subtract anything from it. God rejects all of man's works (including water baptism) and/or righteousness to

Expanded Doctrinal Statement of My Personal Christian Beliefs

satisfy God's justice or to live godly because they are as filthy rags - a filthy garment. Man is without righteousness. He is unable to live without sin. He is unable to save himself.

The greatest price paid on the Cross, was not the physical suffering Christ went through, however terrible. It was instead the loss of fellowship between the Father and the Son. Christ did not even know His Father when He said My God why has Thou Forsaken Me. Thus, we should avoid as we can any loss of fellowship with God.

(Isaiah 53; 64:6; Daniel 9:24; Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34; John 1:12, 29; 3:16; 6:33, 51; Acts 20:28; Romans 4:24-25; 5:6, 8-9, 15; 2 Corinthians 5:19, 21; Colossians 1:20; 2:13-14; Titus 4:10; Hebrews 2:9; 9:16, 22; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 John 2:2, 5; Revelation 5:9.)

Redemption - As a picture, all unbelievers in Christ Cross are born in the slave market of sin. Being slaves, one cannot get out by one's self. After Christ satisfied God's Justice, Christ purchased our freedom (applied to us as we believe in Christ's Cross) out of the slave market with the purchase price of His blood. As such we become His property. Having been bought with a price, we cannot go back to the slave market. We are no longer our own. This is called redemption. We have been redeemed out of the slave market of sin by the blood of the Lamb (Christ). (1 Corinthians 6:20; 7:23; Galatians 4:5; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14; Titus 2:14; Hebrews 9:12, 15)

Adoption - Another picture is adoption. When bought out of the slave market, we are adopted as sons. The completion of the adoption occurs after resurrection. We now are in the family of God forever. (Romans 8:15, 23; Galatians 4:5; Ephesians 1:5)

Reconciliation to God - Based on man receiving a fallen nature in the Garden of Eden and having this nature past down through the race, we all have lost fellowship with God, beginning with birth. We transgress His laws and live by our ways. We are outside His Kingdom and in the Dominion of Satan. Thus, we need reconciliation to God, living by His ways, and to His Kingdom. We are reconciled to God by believing in Christ's Cross. When this happens we are translated into His Kingdom from the Dominion of Satan and receive a type of divine nature that allows us personally to walk and fellowship with Him. The Church is given this ministry of reconciliation. (Romans 5:10-11; 11:15; 2 Corinthians 5:18, 20; Colossians 1:22)

RECEIVING OF GOD'S JUSTICE PERSONALLY - God's justice, satisfied by Christ on the Cross, is applied to individuals personally from His Grace *only by their personal faith in Christ's Gospel* (the source), as they exercise their will and choice by some action (embracement of source) that activates their faith (to become living-faith- source embraced) *as God draws them to Himself*. God has to work in the person to receive salvation because unsaved man has no righteousness and does not seek after God. Based on the Scriptures then, a person needs to accept or receive Christ's Gospel as a free gift (without personal works) by faith activated by an action of the will, heart, and choice as God works in them. This acceptance of the Gospel allows God to place His satisfied justice by the Cross to one's personal benefit so that one receives salvation and can be with Him in heaven. One is without excuse for not receiving the Gospel for all persons knew of God and His power through creation, and God puts some law into the conscience of every man. Every person (reaching their age of God accountability) has some knowledge of good and evil.

Everything happens in accordance with the will and sovereignty of God. At the same time, man is responsible for His actions, decisions, and beliefs. The situation is completely just. The Bible does not give us details for more understanding on this relationship. God's sovereignty and man's will work together for man to go to be with God in eternity (the new Jerusalem) or away from God in eternity (the Lake of Fire).

Expanded Doctrinal Statement of My Personal Christian Beliefs

Because salvation is based and founded *only* on the person of Christ and what He did on the Cross and in His death, burial and bodily resurrection, ***there is no other way, person, or no name under heaven other than the Lord Jesus Christ by which we can be saved.*** God saves people only on the basis of their personal living-faith in what Christ did on the Cross; the Gospel.

(For example, even though one is saved by God using His Holy Spirit, one is not saved by believing in the Holy Spirit. One is only saved by believing in Christ and His work on the Cross. There is no other path to God because being saved involved God satisfying His justice for sin through Christ and His Cross. All religious people, regardless of their religious beliefs, will not be saved and go to be with God in heaven, unless they believe in Christ's Cross, having personally believed the Gospel with an act that activated their faith. One can know and believe the Gospel and not be saved. They must act from their faith to receive the Gospel.)

(John 1:12; 6:44, 65; 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 1:16-25; 5:8; 6:23; 9:19-25; Ephesians 2:8-9; Philippians 1:6; James 2:26)

SALVATION APPLIED ON THE BASIS OF ACTIVATED FAITH - God saves people based on their faith (source) embraced by some action - an embracement or embodiment of source. This brings living faith to which God responds. He does not save people on the basis of their works (or any action or deed including that of water baptism) or how much people do or on how much people know. Thus, one must know that they are sinners and that Christ died on the Cross for their sin according to the Scriptures. Then acting in the image of God, they will act embracing their faith in this Gospel for their sin. This brings living faith. Then God saves based on the living faith, not based on the actions that embraced the faith. God only saves based on the source of the actions, not on the actions themselves. But the action is necessary to activate the faith.

The Bible allows prayer, confession of the Gospel before men, and/or water baptism as a public confession and witness for methods to activate one's faith in the Gospel, as an action to demonstrate living-faith to which God responds. Normally one is water baptized only after one believes and after one becomes a Christian. They are water baptized after salvation to tell people that they have already gone through a death, burial, and resurrection with Christ. And now, in newness of life with a new divine nature, they have made the decision to live for Christ as they present themselves as instruments of righteousness to God.

(Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 16:31; Romans 6:1-13; 10:9-10, 13)

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - At the time when one believes in Christ as Savior, one is placed spiritually into Christ by the Holy Spirit, resulting in going through a death, burial, and resurrection with Christ into newness of life. Baptism carries the meaning that because of our union with Christ, we are changed into a new likeness and cannot be changed back. This action gives us as a believer eternal security in Christ. We cannot lose our salvation. This process is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Water baptism by emersion is a picture of this spiritual baptism. Going down into the water is a picture of dying and being buried with Christ and coming out of the water is a picture of being resurrected with Christ from the dead into a newness of life.

Having realized we have been baptized by the Holy Spirit, we are now to present ourselves to God as instruments of righteousness for His purposes. Doing this, we now show we have decided to live for Christ.

(Mark 16:16; John 1:12; 3:16; 6:44; Acts 4:12; 16:30, 31; Romans 1:16-23; 2:12-15; Romans 1:16 with 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; 15:3-4; Romans 6:1-13; 10:9-10, 13; Ephesians 2:8-9; James 2:26; 1 John

Expanded Doctrinal Statement of My Personal Christian Beliefs

4:15; 5:14.)

SALVATION COMES IN THREE SEQUENTIAL PARTS - Salvation in Christ is in three parts. **One** is Justification for sin resulting from obeying and believing the Gospel (satisfaction of God's Justice for sin) that allows us to go to heaven. In this justification, God imputes His righteousness to us. We now are no longer forever under the condemnation of God to go to the Lake of Fire for our sin. **The second** is Sanctification that sets us, as believers, apart to God and our growing in spiritual ability in Christ-Likeness in unity with Him, living by love, under the leading and filling of the Holy Spirit to know and relate to God for purposes of now and especially for eternity. We grow in holiness and righteousness in our experience. We have a love affair with God where He leads and supplies all our needs, and we obey Him from love, faith, and hope in unity with Him in every aspect. We serve each other from sacrificial love. **And the third** is glorification when we receive new resurrection bodies, our sin natures and all of their memories are removed from us (there is no sin, curse, tears, mourning, or sickness in heaven - the new Jerusalem), and we are in the personal presence of the Lord. We can see Him as He is. We take into eternity only that maturity, growth, and memories that are developed in this lifetime in our new divine natures. In eternity, we will walk by faith and love. We will never see God the Father who is everywhere present or the Holy Spirit. We will see the Son who always represents God the Father. We will be in His wonderful presence.

(Psalm 133:1; Isaiah 66:17; John 6:37, 39, 40; 10:27-29; 17: 23; Romans 6:1-13; 7; 8:14, 28-29; 33; 1 Corinthians 1:2, 30; 6:11; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 1:13-14; 2:8-9; 4:3, 13; 5:18-20; Philippians 1:6; 2:11-12; Colossians 1:14; 2:14; 3:16-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Hebrews 12:14; Jude 1:24; 1 John 1:2; 3:2; 5:11-13; Revelation 21:4, 26-27; 22:3.)

ETERNAL SECURITY (NO LONGER UNDER LAW) - Once a person is saved with Justification, he or she remains saved forever with eternal security in God. Believers can never lose their salvation of satisfied justice (Justification). God continues to work in the believer throughout his lifetime to have them grow in Christ and maintain salvation. At salvation, the new believer is changed into a new person or creature (newness of life) by regeneration through the baptism by the Holy Spirit. One receives a new (type of) divine nature (not God's) - newness of life, a new creation - that cannot sin. We still retain the sin nature that does sin. By means of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the new believer is placed spiritually into Christ, is co-crucified and dies with Christ on the Cross, is buried with Christ, and is risen from the dead with Christ. He receives the new divine nature as he is resurrected with Christ.

As such, having died with Christ, the believer dies to the jurisdiction of the Law. The Law no longer has power or jurisdiction over him in regard to His destination in eternity or whether or not he remains saved in Justification. The believer no longer has to obey the Law for salvation or to keep his salvation. He is no longer under law, but now under grace. This is a legal arrangement.

The real self is now the new nature received at salvation. This nature cannot sin. Because the new nature cannot sin, it cannot break any spiritual law that might cause a loss of salvation. It is eternally free from the condemnation of God. The believer cannot be changed back to his previous old condition. We still contain the old sin nature. Thus, we will do things we desire not to do, and we will not do some of the things we want to do. When we sin, it is no longer we who are doing it, but the sin nature that still lives within us. We are now alive to God with a new nature that cannot sin.

At Justification Salvation, the Holy Spirit permanently indwells the believer. God seals the believer at salvation by His Holy Spirit as a promise (called an earnest or pledge of guarantee) for the believer to be with God in eternity. God continually leads the believer throughout his lifetime by His Holy Spirit. We are filled by the Holy Spirit as the Spirit leads us to obey that of God's Word that richly indwells us as we obey God's commandments from faith, love, and hope. As we obey, we walk in unity and in

Expanded Doctrinal Statement of My Personal Christian Beliefs

fellowship with God. This results in us experiencing the fruit of the Holy Spirit (such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control), and we sing melody to the Lord in hymns, Psalms, and spiritual songs from our hearts and give thanks to the Lord.

Being and when under the Law, we try to keep the law to obey God in order to be saved based on living from our own self and strength. Being saved and under God's Grace, we now live by faith in God, depending upon Him for results and to work all things together for good. We continue to activate our faith in Him to work all things together for good by from love keeping His commandments, and from purpose, accomplishing His work. Thus, living by love we will not take into account, for example, a wrong suffered because we will trust God to work things together for good and bring results. Thus, we are to let Him to bring discipline and/or punishment that may be required (also by other human authorities over us).

When we are not involved in God's work from a sense of purpose and are not keeping His commandments out of our love for Him, we are no longer trusting Him to work all things together for good. We are now trusting in ourselves to bring results which is like living under the law. This is the way the unbeliever lives. When we are trusting God to bring results, we live under Grace and are in Sanctification. When we trust in ourselves to bring results, we no longer being sanctified in these actions, and are living under law for sanctification that does not work.

(Isaiah 66:17; John 6:37, 39, 40; 10:27-29; Romans 6:1-13; 7; 8:14, 28-29; 1 Corinthians 13:1-8; Galatians 5:18-23; Ephesians 1:13-14; 2:8-9; 5:18-20; Philippians 1:6; 2:11-12; Colossians 3:16-17; 2 Timothy 1:14; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Jude 1:24; 1 John 1:2; 2:3, 5; 3:2; 5:11-13.)

DEMONSTRATION (AND ASSURANCE) OF HAVING SALVATION - Having Justification, this first part of salvation is demonstrated through Sanctification when we: (1) have a changed life to have fruit (proper spiritual attitudes and results from doing God's work) in our life; (2) continue in and follow Christ throughout our lifetime; and (3) become involved in His work - mainly evangelism and discipleship to maturity. God brings us fruit in this work. We are actively working to have unity with God in all beliefs and actions; all of life comes from Him. We have the desire to keep God's commandments that demonstrates our love for Him. We have love for the brethren demonstrated by our serving them. The Kingdom we have in God will not be shaken. We are saved to good works that God has prepared for us from the foundation of the world. All believers are to be in God's work that He has chosen for us. If we are not involved in God's work and are not pursuing obeying God's commandments out of love for God (not just because they are the right thing to do), we may not be saved, even though we may have gone through a ritual to received Christ as Savior. We must evaluate ourselves.

The Holy Spirit leads us to divine life and witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God. Our salvation is demonstrated when we sense we are working out our salvation in fear and trembling and working to have unity with God in everything. We are admonished to test or evaluate ourselves to be sure that we are in the faith.

We have fellowship and unity with God when we obey Him, living under His authority and headship, and do things in unity with Him that are in common with Him. When we sense that we have sinned and have lost fellowship with God (not salvation) by our hearts condemning us, we can confess our sin and Christ's blood keeps on cleansing us from sin and restores the fellowship. But we must do so without the plan to continue in this sin(s) or He may not hear, and thus, He may not answer our prayers. He may not cleanse us from sin, not restoring us to complete fellowship.

We can know that we are in Christ as believers if we have received discipline from the Lord for our sin. All those who are His, He has disciplined. If we have not been disciplined, we are none of His.

Expanded Doctrinal Statement of My Personal Christian Beliefs

When we continue to practice known sin, we do the acts of the devil. This gives the devil permission to work in our lives, because when we practice known sin, we place ourselves under his headship. God works in us to move us away from continuing in known sin.

(Psalm 66:18; 133:1; John 15:1-6; 17:23; Romans 7; 8:14, 16; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Ephesians 2:10; 4:3, 13; Philippians 2:12; Colossians 1:14, 22-23; Titus 2:14; Hebrews 12:5-12, 28; 1 John 1:5-9; 3:6-11, 14, 18-22; 4)

SALVATION OF CHILDREN WHO DIE - The Bible says little about the salvation of children who are young and/or do not have a confession of faith in the Gospel when they die as children. God does not want any of them to perish. In the Old Testament, the Israelites who had not yet reached God accountability, not yet knowing good or evil, were allowed to enter the promised land (an OT type of being in Christ). So it appears that God saves children with some nominal amount of mature spiritual ability in Christ-likeness if they should die before receiving Christ as Savior and before having the knowledge of good or evil and before reaching God accountability.

(Deuteronomy 1:39; Mark 10:14)

CHRIST RECEIVED ALL POWER IN HEAVEN AND IN EARTH - After His death, burial, and bodily Resurrection, having satisfied God's Justice for sin, Christ ascended into heaven. The Justice for sin being satisfied by Him on the Cross, the heavenly court awarded Christ all power in heaven and in earth over all principalities and all powers. This power gave Him the legal authority to take the Gospel to all nations - all people world-wide - and to disciples converts. The Lord gave this command to the Church. This means He can now apply the satisfied Justice legally to believers and translate them legally from the Dominion of Satan into the Kingdom of God as legal citizens. He translated all those believers who had died previous to this time. As the satisfied justice is applied to each believer, they become part of the Church. As of the day of Pentecost and following, all believers from all of history are in the Church, having been called out from or translated from the Dominion of Satan in to the Kingdom of God. They can now proceed to cooperate with God so that mature spiritual ability is developed in them. All believers in the Gospel, without exception, are in the Church and in the Kingdom of God.

(Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 1:21; 4:8-10; 1 Peter 3:22)

DEFINITION OF THE CHURCH - This called out assembly from the Dominion of Satan into the Kingdom of God founded only on believing in Christ's Work of the Cross is called Church. The Church is defined as consisting of those persons, and only those persons, having believed in some manner in Christ's Cross, have been called out from or translated from the Dominion of Satan, from under the power and Jurisdiction of the Law, and from the sting of death into the Kingdom of God, under Grace, and freedom from the law, no longer having to obey any law to receive or maintain salvation. Living in sin is death. Obeying God from faith and love is life in God.

Thus, biblically, one does not go to church, but instead the Church assembles for worship and study. Every believer who is saved by the Cross is in Christ's Church. All others are not. Christ acts as our only mediator between God and man. Christ alone is head of the Church. When saved, we become legally the bride of Christ. At His Second Coming we, as believers, go to live with Him legally in marriage.

(Matthew 28:18; Acts 26:18; Romans 6:23; 8:27, 34; 1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 1:20-24; 4:8; Colossians 1:13-14, 18; 1 Timothy 2:5; 6:14-15; Hebrews 2:8; 1 Peter 3:22; Revelation 19:7-8; 21:19)

Expanded Doctrinal Statement of My Personal Christian Beliefs

THE CHURCH IS IN GOD'S KINGDOM AND NO LONGER UNDER GOD'S CONDEMNATION FOR SIN - The Church is the Body of Christ and consists only of those people whom God has saved by believing the Gospel. As such, she includes all people who have been called out of Satan's Dominion into God's Kingdom having had God's condemnation removed from them. People who have not believed the Gospel remain, as unbelievers, under God's condemnation and in the Dominion of Satan outside the Kingdom of God. Those not having believed Christ's Gospel are not a part of Christ's Church, even if they attend or minister in a visible church, group, or worship service, and attempt to do good works such as attempting to keep or obey God's commandments, including the Great Commandment, or heal people in His name. No person is justified before God by keeping the law or by obeying God's commandments. One is only justified by activated faith in the Gospel by faith, not of any works that anyone should boast. Once a person is justified before God, one is no longer under condemnation to go to the Lake of Fire. (Acts 26:18; Matthew 7:21-23; Romans 3:19-30; 5:1; 8:1; Galatians 2:15-21; Ephesians 2:8-9; Colossians 1:12.)

GOD OBJECTIVE FOR THE CHURCH (ALSO PRESENTED EARLIER) - *God's main objective or purpose* is to bring believers (His church) to become mature in Christ (in His likeness) with high skill in spiritual ability of walking with God (and Christ) as a sacrificial bond servant, living in holiness, love, righteousness, and complete unity. Only those who agree can walk together. We are to agree with God. Only those who live holy and are holy can know God. The degree of our spiritual maturity is measured by how we respond to God's leading through His Holy Spirit in comparison as to how Christ, being perfect, would respond to God in the same circumstances, such as acting in our place.

(Thus, if we want to live holy in fellowship with God, we should avoid all forms of immorality and sensuousness and anything that takes out of God's chain of command. When we are involved in these things, we give Satan power to work in our lives and God cannot use us as effectively - we cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, and our growth in spiritual maturity is impeded. All things we have first or activities that we are wrongly involved in before God is a form of Idolatry. For example, immorality and greed are idolatry. God hates this. We are to seek His Kingdom and righteousness first above all else.)

This spiritual ability is needed in order that we now and especially in eternity can, living in holiness and by or from righteousness and love, come to know God (and Christ) in His depth and breadth, praise Him in great richness, serve Him (and each other) from great sacrificial love. ***This is where our lives are to be, living by perfect truth in fellowship, in relationship living, with the perfect and infinite God.***

Thus, this pathway of becoming mature in Christ-Likeness is high-skill spiritual ability is most important for the Christian so that we do not limit the depth and breadth of our knowing and relating to God in eternity. APART FROM HAVING SALVATION IN CHRIST, BECOMING MATURE IN CHRIST-LIKENESS FOUNDED ON LOVE, AND KNOWING GOD AND RELATING TO GOD, THERE IS NOTHING.

The skill level of spiritual ability in Christ-likeness we have at death we may have forever without opportunity in heaven to increase it, even though we will gain much more knowledge. This skill means we have learned to live out what we know in experience. We have experience of walking with God.

The Bible does not directly teach that the spiritual ability we have in Christ-likeness we have at death, we will have forever. But because we are commanded to pursue it, all the events of biblical history lead to us becoming mature, and the developing environment of the world, flesh, and the devil is not allowed in heaven, It appears most strongly our spiritual ability we have at death, we can have forever. It appears this way by what we can understand in this life. We must hedge against this being right by pursuing this maturity with commitment and excellence. God

Expanded Doctrinal Statement of My Personal Christian Beliefs

may use our spiritual ability in a manner we are not told about now. It would appear that if we were all have the same spiritual ability at death, He could have just created us that way and this life time would be unnecessary. But He did not do that.

It appears to me that all the events and happenings throughout Bible history are for the purpose to bring us to maturity in Christ-Likeness with high-skill spiritual ability such as to walk by faith and love. We must hedge against this being correct by pursuing spiritual maturity with all diligence and commitment. To make an error here is to make a most terrible and eternal mistake. There is no second chance. (We must understand that our purpose includes, but is not just, to receive Christ as Savior and have some Christian growth and lead others to Christ. To based one's life in this thinking is a most terrible mistake.)

(Amos 3:3; Matthew 5:8; 6:33; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 3:14-21; 4:11-13; Colossians 1:28-29; 3:5-6; Hebrews 6:1; James 1:2-4)

The Church's Main Objective and Purpose In Order to Fulfill God's Purpose and Objective - This spiritual ability in Christ-likeness is accomplished by being personally trained by believers (teachers in the Church) with God's Whole Counsel (a prepared in-depth and in-breadth curriculum) and living out that training under God by His Holy Spirit (can be at several skill levels) as He works in us to develop this spiritual maturity, trusting God to work all things together for our ultimate good, as we live in the trials, testings, and persecutions of life in three activities. These activities are: (1) **exalting God** — worshiping, glorifying, praising, knowing, pleasing, obeying, seeking, and honoring Him; (2) **living godly lives** in obedience to God in relationship living patterned after the Son's walk with the Father by faith (using the promises), love (keeping the commandments), and hope (one day being with Christ in eternity) in authoritative head-subordinate unity love relationships; and (3) **accomplishing God's work**, founded on love for Him and others, by evangelizing *all* people area-wide with the Gospel, planting new churches and discipling converts to live godly lives to become mature in Christ - likeness with high-skill spiritual ability. God's work also very importantly includes building godly families, training faithful people to carry out God's ministries, and reaching out to the needy with support and God's truth. We need to learn to give up our lives for Christ's and the Gospel's sake in order to save our lives. As believers, we need to be there for each other giving much love, help, and support. Believers are to be thankful and rejoice in God and what He has done for them. ***If we do not do this training, with much application, with God's Whole Counsel (all of Scripture), we can be guilty of the people's blood.***

We need to ensure we are working to mature ourselves in high-skill spiritual ability in Christ-Likeness, based on the foundation of love in relationship living with God, and not mainly working just for some spiritual growth. We need to ensure we are working to evangelize our entire local areas, because just as with God, we are not willing that any should perish, and not just doing some evangelism. The Lord said that I glorified My Father in heaven because I accomplished all the work He gave Me to do. We are to do the same according to the work that our Father has given to us. We need to discover and know what this work is and accomplish it out of faith and love in relationship living with God.

We need to evaluate what we are doing and working so that these can and will happen under God. Are we and our people growing in Christ that they will accept leadership and are involved in God's work (are we adequately maturing our people)? Are we having regular water baptisms of people from outside our church family (are we doing adequate evangelism)?

We must understand that having much knowledge of the Scriptures is not necessarily a sign in itself of spiritual maturity. The Bible teaches that if we have mostly knowledge, but do not have love in relationship living with God, we are nothing. On the other hand, the Bible teaches that without

Expanded Doctrinal Statement of My Personal Christian Beliefs

knowledge the people can perish. So having knowledge is important. People with much less knowledge who live out what they know in unity with God from love, by the leading of the Holy Spirit, can be much more mature than those who do not with abundant knowledge without a unity walk with God. Thus, a washer woman and/or a person undergoing persecution can be much more mature than a church pastor who has much knowledge but with little life experience.

(Psalm 85:6; 97:1; 148:1-14; 149:1-9; 150; Isaiah 61:10; Matthew 22:37-38; 28:16-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46, 47; John 4:31; 14:15; 15:10; 17:4; Acts 1:8; 5:29; 20:26-27; Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 6:20; 10:31; 11:3; 13:1-8; Ephesians 4:12-13; Philippians 3:1; 4:4; Colossians 1:10, 18, 28-29; 2 Thessalonians 4:1; 2 Timothy 2:2, 4; Hebrews 6:1; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:2, 4, 8; 2 Peter 1:3-12; 3:9; 1 John 3:2.)

CHRIST IN US, AND WE IN HIM - The Father was in Christ, and Christ in the Father. This is observed by the works that Christ did on earth came from the Father as a source. As believers, it is Christ in us, and we in Him. This is observed by having ministry and fruit from Him as a source.

The concept is that the greater (the source) goes into the lessor (the embodiment of source) and the lessor responds back in unity. The Father is greater than Christ. Christ is greater than us. In marriage it is the husband going both spiritually and physically into His wife, and she responds back in both domains. The physical relationship is a model of the spiritual unity relationship. The husband is the source and the wife is the embodiment of the source.

The need of husband and wife does not exist in heaven. Thus, the marriage relationship we have on earth will not exist in heaven. Our relationship with God and our maturity in Christ is a personal one and uses but does not depend upon the one we have with a spouse. We will not have a human spouse in heaven. The spouse for all believers is Christ. As Christians we are now legally betrothed to Christ and at His coming we will live with Him as our husband. Thus, we must ensure that we are going on to maximum spiritual maturity now in Christ. Our human marriage relationship will not exist in heaven.

(Matthew 22:30; Mark 12:25; John 10:29-30; 14:11, 20; 28; 17:22; Revelation 19)

SECOND COMING OF CHRIST TO RESURRECT AND REWARD THE SAINTS - The Lord Jesus Christ will come again, a second time, at the end of the Church Period after He has received the Kingdom of the World that becomes the Kingdom of God and the Title Deed of the Earth by the heavenly court. These awards give Him the legal authority at His Second Coming to resurrect, rapture, and reward His Church for her works of faith-obedience. He will take her to the new Jerusalem to be with Him forever.

These heavenly court awards gives Christ the legal authority to bring the resurrections and judgments. These awards come after the court has determined that Christ has won the warfare over Satan. The criteria for these awards is that all of God's chosen elect did actually believe, and all of the elect did actually accomplish all of God's chosen works. Satan could not prevent these from happening.

When a believer in the Church period dies, he goes to be with the Lord with some kind of body. Paul stated that when one dies they go to be with the Lord. Those who died in the Great Tribulation were standing in heaven before the Lord. But there were also souls under the altar with robes, apparently having some kind of body. He does not get his final and eternal body until the resurrection of the just.

(Daniel 7:26-27; John 5:22-23; 28-29; 6:39, 40, 44; 11:24; 1 Corinthians 15:51-58; 2 Corinthians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Thessalonians 1:7, 10-12; 2:1; Hebrews 9:28; 1 John 3:2; 2 Peter 3:18; Revelation 6:9-11; 7:9-15; 11:15-18; 21:4, 26-27; 22:3.)

Expanded Doctrinal Statement of My Personal Christian Beliefs

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST TO RESURRECT AND PUNISH UNBELIEVERS TO SATISFY GOD'S JUSTICE FOR SIN - The Lord Jesus Christ will come again, after He received the Kingdom of the World that becomes the Kingdom of God and the Title Deed of the Earth, to resurrect, and judge unbelievers for their works of disobedience at the Great White Throne Judgment. He will cast them away from God into the Lake of Fire to suffer eternal punishment in order to satisfy God's judgment and justice for sin, according to their sinful works. They will go there because God's satisfied justice by the Cross will not have been placed to their personal account through living-faith in the Gospel. Unbelievers go there because they refused to accept God's love in His giving of the Gospel and work of Christ on the Cross, even when they had much evidence of God through creation and may have known about it. Man is without excuse if he did not receive the Gospel. He knew of God through his power in creation. He in effect chooses to go the Lake of Fire. (John 5:22-23; 28-29; Romans 1:16-23; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Revelation 11:18; 19:11-21; 20:11-15; 21:8)

APPENDIX

The Salvation Process - God created Adam and Eve with perfect, but with immature (sinless at the time) natures that could sin. As a result these were not divine natures. When tested, both Adam and Eve failed the test by disobeying God. They ate the fruit of the forbidden tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They wanted the knowledge to become wise so they could run their own lives independent of God. The result was to become depraved with a fallen and sinful nature, called sin. As a result they came under the condemnation of God and were now in the Dominion of Satan. They now needed a Savior and a nature that could develop maturity in Christ-likeness.

When a person believes in Christ and His work on the Cross in some manner, they are justified before God and they receive a new divine nature that can develop spiritual maturity in Christ-likeness. We know from the Scriptures that Abraham in his lifetime was justified by God. This was before the Cross came. So it appears that this justification looked forward to the Cross coming, that according to God's mind, occurred before the foundation of the world.

We are not told everything, but Abraham (and the other Old Testament believers) must have been baptized by the Holy Spirit in Old Testament times so that he could receive a new divine nature that cannot sin and allow him to go on to maturity in Christ walking by great faith. He still retained the old sin nature that caused him to sin. Thus, this is the same for both the pre-Cross and post-Cross believers. As such Abraham (and others such as David) was led by the Holy Spirit to become mature in Christ, and also he was sealed by the Holy Spirit for a guarantee to go to heaven to be with God - the new Jerusalem for which he was looking.

However, when Abraham died, he was held somewhere called Abraham's bosom (Luke 16:19-31) according to the parable. (Abraham's bosom may have been in heaven or under the earth (See Ephesians 4:2-3) with the gulf between him and the unbelievers being held under the earth in hell. They were allowed to communicate.) Abraham was held there until the Cross came.

Christ, when on earth, said that He would build His Church, meaning future. He began His Church starting with the Day of Pentecost after His Resurrection and Ascension. After Christ satisfied God's justice for sin and ascended into heaven to receive all power in heaven and in earth, He also descended into the depths of the earth to take those captive there captive to be with Him. He took them to heaven with Him at that time. This is when Abraham and all the pre-Cross believers became legally part of Christ's Church and legally in the Kingdom of God. And then thereafter all believers became part of Christ's Church and are translated into the Kingdom of God. That is all believers were legally translated from the Dominion of Satan into the Kingdom of God.

(There is some reason to believe alternatively that all the Old Testament believers were taken to heaven with some

Expanded Doctrinal Statement of My Personal Christian Beliefs

sort of body and only the unbelievers went into the grave (sheol). We are told that both Enoch and Elijah were taken to heaven without dying on earth. They all could have been held in Abraham's bosom even after being translated. The Bible appears silent on this subject. We are told that both Moses and Elijah appeared on the mount of transfiguration to the disciples. Both Ezekiel and the apostle John when they saw visions in heaven, they did not see believers. They saw Christ and angels. In any event, the Old Testament believers will not receive their formal final or eternal resurrection bodies until the time of the first resurrection at the time of Christ's Second Coming. They were not formally translated into the kingdom of God until after or on the Day of Pentecost following Christ's resurrection after He received all power of heaven and earth.)

(2 Kings 2:2; Ezekiel 2; Matthew 16:18; 17:1-5; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 16:19-31; Acts 26:18; Romans 4:2-3, 13; Galatians 3:6, 18; Ephesians 4:8-10; Colossians 1:18; Hebrews 11; James 2:20-26; Revelation 4-5)