

Hope in Christ Church: Statement of Faith

Scripture

God

Man

Grace

Church

We Believe:

SCRIPTURE: The Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God.

It is the ultimate, complete and eternal source of knowledge about God and the definitive guide for our daily lives.

Basic information about the Bible

66 books written by 40 authors in 3 languages over 1500 years on 3 continents

The word Bible comes from the Greek word (*biblos*) for the outer coat of the papyrus reed

Original documents (the *autographos* ⇒ self-written) are gone, but copies are very reliable

Old Testament (39 books): 5 books of Law, 12 of History, 5 of Poetry, 17 of Prophecy

New Testament (27 books): 4 books of Biography, 1 of History, 21 Letters, 1 of Prophecy

Key Verses Supporting the Doctrinal Statement concerning Scripture:

Inspired: Scripture originated in the mind of God Romans 16:25-27, 2 Timothy 3:16a, 2 Peter 3:15

Men wrote the Bible, but were directed by God through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit 2 Samuel 23:1-2, Zechariah 7:12, Acts 1:15-16, Ephesians 3:2-5, 2 Peter 1:20-21

Inerrant: The Word of the Lord is "flawless" 2 Samuel 22:31a, Psalms 12:6, 18:30a, 19:7, Proverbs 30:5a

God knowledge: God the Son (Jesus Christ) is equated with the Word John 1:1,14, Revelation 19:11-13

Scripture is complete ('do not change') Deuteronomy 4:2, Proverbs 30:6, Revelation 22:18-19

The Word of God is eternal Psalms 111:7-8, 119:89-90, 144, Isaiah 40:8 (1 Peter 1:24b-25a)

God will finish everything planned in His Word Isaiah 46:10-11, 55:11, Matthew 5:17-18

Life guide: Scripture is the source of Truth 1 Kings 17:24, Daniel 10:20-21, John 8:31-32, 14:6, 17:17

Salvation results from hearing the Word Romans 10:17, Galatians 3:2-5, 1 Peter 1:22-23

His Word provides assurance of salvation 1 John 5:13 and peace Romans 5:1-5

Scripture study produces spiritual growth Hebrews 5:12-14, 6:1, 1 Peter 2:2-3

The Word is Godly food from the LORD Deuteronomy 8:3 (Matthew 4:4), Psalms 104:14-15

God's Word brings understanding (light) to life's 'path' Psalms 119:105, 130, 2 Peter 1:19

Scripture prepares for "every good work" Romans 15:4, Colossians 3:16, 2 Timothy 3:16-17

God's Word divides the heavenly from the worldly Hebrews 4:12, Revelation 19:11-16

Knowing God's Word keeps people from sinning Psalms 18:22-23, 119:9,11, 133

The Word is the only offensive weapon in God's armor Luke 4:1-13, Ephesians 6:17

Statement of Faith: 2 Scripture

Deuteronomy 4:2 Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.

Psalms 12:6 And the words of the LORD are flawless, like silver refined in a furnace of clay, purified seven times.

Psalms 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

Psalms 104:14-15 He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate – bringing forth food from the earth: wine that gladdens the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread that sustains his heart.

Psalms 119:9,11 How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. ... I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Psalms 119:130 The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

Psalms 119:133 Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me.

Psalms 119:144 Your statutes are forever right; give me understanding that I may live.

Proverbs 30:6 Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar.

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever. ^{1 Peter 1:24b-25a}

Isaiah 46:10-11 I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do.

Matthew 4:4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ^{Deuteronomy 8:3}

Matthew 5:17-18 [Jesus said:] "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished."

Luke 4:1-13 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'" The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'" The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. For it is written: " 'He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered, "It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

John 1:1, 14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 8:31-32 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 14:6 Jesus [said:] "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 17:17 [Jesus said:] "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."

Statement of Faith: 2 Scripture

Romans 5:1-5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Romans 10:17 Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Ephesians 3:2-5 Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.

Ephesians 6:17 Take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Hebrews 5:12-14 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

1 Peter 1:22-23 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

1 Peter 2:2-3 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

2 Peter 1:20-21 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 3:15 Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him.

1 John 5:13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Revelation 19:11-13 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.

Revelation 22:18-19 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. (^{v.20} He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come Lord Jesus.)