

# *What We Believe*

## The Doctrinal Statement of Bible Visuals International

### Section 1

We believe that the Bible, composed of the Old Testament and the New Testament, is the complete and verbally inspired Word of God and without error in its original manuscripts and, therefore, the supreme standard for faith and conduct. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21)

### Section 2

We believe in one living, eternal and true God, existing in three persons--the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Deuteronomy 6:4; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Timothy 1:17)

### Section 3

We believe in the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His perfect humanity, His vicarious death for the forgiveness of sins, His bodily resurrection and ascension, and His present high priestly ministry. We believe the next great event in the fulfillment of prophecy will be the rapture of the church. This will be followed by seven years of tribulation on the earth and this period will be climaxed by the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth to introduce the millennial age. (Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15-21; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; 14:1-3; Romans 3:24-25; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; Ephesians 1:7; Philippians 3:20; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 7:25; Revelation 19:11-16)

### Section 4

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, that He is the agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, and that He guards and keeps them forever. (John 6:37-40; 16:8-11; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Ephesians 1:13-14; 1 Peter 1:5)

### Section 5

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, and that in Adam's sin the human race fell; that every person born on this earth (except Christ) inherits a sinful nature and is alienated from God; and that man is totally depraved and unable by his own efforts to redeem [or, rescue] himself from his lost condition. (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-23; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12)

### Section 6

We believe that the salvation of the sinner is wholly by God's grace through personal faith in the Lord Jesus

Christ, entirely apart from works of any kind. Good works are expected of the believer as acts of obedience and love, and will by God's grace be rewarded at the judgment seat of Christ. (Ephesians 2:8-10; Matthew 17:27; Revelation 22:12; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 9:25; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Thessalonians 2:19; 2 Timothy 4:8; James 1:12; 1 Peter 5:4)

### Section 7

We believe the Spirit of God bestows enabling gifts for service upon all who are saved. While there is a diversity of gifts, each believer is energized by the same Spirit, and each is called to his own divinely appointed service as the Spirit may will. In the apostolic church there were certain gifted men--apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers--who were appointed by God for the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry. We believe that today some men are especially called of God to be evangelists, pastors, and teachers, and that it is to the fulfilling of His will and to His eternal glory that these shall be sustained and encouraged in their service for God.

We further believe that speaking in tongues and the working of sign miracles gradually ceased as the Scriptures were completed and their authority became established. We believe that when it is in accord with God's own will, He heals and answers prayers of faith for the sick and afflicted. (Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 13:8; Ephesians 4:7-12; 1 John 5:14-15)

### Section 8

We believe the Church was begun at Pentecost and is the body and bride of Christ, a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of this present age. We believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper are for this age. We also believe in the local church as defined in the New Testament. (1 Corinthians 11:23-29; 12:12-14; Ephesians 1:22-23; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11)

### Section 9

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of man's fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he will be eternally punished in the lake of fire. (Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10)

### Section 10

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and unjust, resulting in everlasting blessedness for the saved and everlasting punishment for the lost. (Daniel 12:2; John 5:28-29; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Revelation 20:5, 11-15)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



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