

Statement of Christian Faith By Larry Roach

The Holy Bible is the record of God's revelation of Himself to man written by men divinely inspired. It is without error and is trustworthy as the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be examined.

There is one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, personal, infinite, holy being, the creator, redeemer, preserver, and ruler of the universe. God reveals himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being. God as Father reigns with providential care over his creation. The Son of God is Jesus the Christ (Savior). He is the visible image of the invisible God. In his incarnation he was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He identified himself completely with mankind yet without sin. His death and shedding of blood on the cross made provision for the redemption of men from sin and death, and he was raised from the dead with a glorified body and ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of the Father where he is the one mediator of reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate his redemptive mission. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God who inspired the writing of Scripture, who enables men to understand truth, who exalts Christ, who convicts of sin, who calls men to the Savior, who effects regeneration, who cultivates Christian character, who comforts believers, who bestows spiritual gifts, and who seals the believer unto the day of final redemption.

Man was created by God, in God's own image. Man was created innocent of sin yet with freedom of choice. By choice man sinned against God when tempted by Satan, brought sin and an inclination toward sin into the human race, and fell from original innocence.

Salvation from sin and death is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Salvation includes a regeneration where the person becomes a new creation whereby the person receives a new heart, a new spirit, the Holy Spirit, and is moved to follow the commands of God. Justification includes God's gracious and full acquittal of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ resulting in peace and favor with God. Sanctification includes the believer being continually set apart to God's purposes. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed. True believers will endure through God's power unto salvation. Angels are created spirit beings who are messengers for God and minister to those who are to inherit salvation.

The church is the called out assembly of believers, under the Lordship of Christ, who are committed to the teachings of Christ, exercising the gifts, and privileges invested in them by his word, and seeking to extend the gospel to all people. In the broadest context, the church includes all of the redeemed of all the ages.

Last Things. God, in his own time and in his own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to his promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever with the Lord.