

MEXICO BAPTIST CHURCH

Study Guide and Outline for New Members

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ by faith as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and its spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the relief of the poor, the expenses of the church, and the spread of the Gospel both here and around the world.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting and excessive anger; to maintain our abstention from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to use our influence to combat the abuse of drugs and the spread of pornography; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

Moreover, we engage that when we remove from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church of like faith and order where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

DOCTRINES

I) THE BIBLE (II Timothy. 3:16-17, Hebrews 4:12, Revelation.22:19)

- A) How did we get it?
- B) Its make-up
- C) One Word of God but many translations

II) GOD (John 4:24)

- A) One
- B) Spirit
- C) Revealed in 3 persons (Trinity)

III) JESUS CHRIST (John 1:1-14, Phil. 2:5-11)

- A) From all eternity
- B) Born as God and man in Bethlehem of Virgin Mary - 4 B.C.
- C) Grew up in Nazareth
- D) Baptized and began ministry at 30
- E) Crucified, died, buried and rose again
- F) Sinless Son of God, Savior of the world, Lord of Life

IV) HOLY SPIRIT

- A) A person as much as Father and Son
- B) Sent into world to testify of Jesus — John 15:26, 16:12
- C) Convicts, regenerates and sanctities — John 16; 7-11
- D) Comforts, guides, and empowers the Christian — John 14:16-18, 16:13, and Acts 1:8
- E) Assumes His full ministry – Acts 2:1-38, John 7:38-39.
- F) Can be blasphemed, grieved, or quenched - Matthew 12:31-34, I Thessalonians 5:19, Ephesians 4:30

V) SATAN (Devil)

- A) An angelic being - Isaiah 14:12-17 (Selfish desire to be as God)
- B) Referred to in many ways:
 - (1) Prince of the world – John 12:3, Ephesians 6:12
 - (2) Accuser – Romans 12:10
 - (3) Adversary – I Peter 5:8
 - (4) Dragon – Revelation 12:7,12
 - (5) Beelzebub – Matthew 12:24
- C) Final end – Matthew 25:41, Revelation 2:10
- D) Our personal conquest of – Ephesians 6:1-13, 16

VI) CREATION

- A) First man Adam, created by God, placed in Garden
- B) Made in Cod's image — Genesis 2:7, 1:26-28, 31
- C) Fell when disobeyed Cod — Genesis 3, Ecclesiastes 7:20, Romans 3:23
- D) All men under sin (original sin) — Romans 5:12-19, Psalm 51:5

VII) SIN

- A) Breaking the law – I John 3:4, Exodus 20
- B) Failure to do known good — James 4:17
- C) Doubtful activity — Romans 14:23
- D) Evil thoughts — Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28
- E) Fulfillment of lust — James 1

VIII) DOCTRINES OF SALVATION

- A) Repentance — Luke 13:3, Godly sorrow — II Corinthians 7:10
- B) Belief — trust — Ephesians 2:8-9
- C) New Birth — John 3:3-5, a new creature - II Corinthians 5:17
- D) Sanctification — Col. 3:1-2, I Thessalonians 5:23
- E) Immediate cleansing —process of growth

IX) ETERNAL SECURITY OF BELIEVER – Those truly born again are forever secure. They will never be lost. John 1:12, 3:16, 10:27-29, Romans 8:33-39, Hebrews 6:4-6, 7:25

X) NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

- A) Jesus is Founder and Head — Matthew 16:18, Ephesians 5:22-23, Col. 1:24
- B) Congregation of born-again baptized believers — Acts 2:41-47, Matthew 18:20
- C) Two Officers: Pastor and Deacons — I Timothy 3:1-7; 8-13
- D) Work — Great Commission
 - (1) Make disciples of all nations — Matthew 28:19-20
 - (2) Baptize the disciples
 - (3) Teach the baptized disciples — Ephesians 4:11-16
 - (4) Exercise discipline among its members — Matthew 18:15-18
- E) Holy Spirit must guide — Acts 13:1-2
- F) Independent and Democratic (Theocratic)

XI) ORDINANCES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT (symbols of saving grace not sacraments)

- A) Baptism — Immersion of believers — Matthew 28:19-20
- B) Lord's Supper emblems of body and blood — I Corinthians 11:17-34

XII) LORD'S DAY (Acts 20:7, I Cor. 16:2)

- A) First day of the week – commemorating resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Luke 24:1
- B) To be used — worship and rest — Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 16:2
- C) No work, deeds of necessity and mercy accepted — Matthew 12:8-14

XIII) RESURRECTION

- A) Jesus arose in body for our justification — Matthew 28:1-10; Romans 4:25
- B) Main Proofs — eyewitnesses and empty tomb — I Corinthians 15:1-7
- C) Bodies of wicked and righteous will be raised — John 5:28-29
- D) Resurrection follows Second Coming of Jesus — I Thessalonians 4:13-18

XIV) SECOND COMING (Acts 1:11; I Thessalonians 4:16-18)

- A) Certain fact but date unknown — Matthew 24:36-42, John 14:1-3
- B) Return “in like manner as He went away.” — Acts 1:6-11
- C) Christians should watch, pray, work and wait — Luke 12:35-40
- D) Signs of His coming — Luke 21:25-28

XV) HEREAFTER

- A) Heaven — Revelation 21:27
- B) Hell – Matthew 25:41; Matthew 5:29-36
- C) No purgatory, sleep of soul, unconsciousness — Luke 16:19-31
- D) No second chance — Hebrews 9:27

XVI) BAPTIST WORKING TOGETHER (I Corinthians 3:9)

- A) Mexico Baptist Church - (Individual Church)
- B) Ohio River Baptist Association - (Association of Churches)
- C) Kentucky Baptist Convention - (State Convention)
- D) Southern Baptist Convention - (National Convention)

XVII) DEACONS (I Timothy 3:8-13; Acts 6:1-4)

- A) Servants of the Christ and Church
- B) To assist Pastor and help give spiritual direction to the church. (Never to dictate or control-no board)
- C) He is to be a man of prayer and a personal soul winner
- D) He shall demonstrate care for others by visiting in homes, visiting new members and visiting the sick

XVIII) PASTOR (I Peter 5:1-14)

- A) Shepherd of flock and preacher of the Word
- B) Main duties
 - (1) Preach the pure word of God
 - (2) Pastor of the people
 - (3) Administer the church
 - (4) Equip the saints for their ministry

XIX) MISSIONS – (Matthew 28:19-20)

- A) Extending the Gospel around the world
- B) Task of every new Testament Church

XX) SOUL WINNING (Matthew 4:19; Acts 1:8)

- A) Every Christian's job
- B) The Soul—winner must
 - (1) Be born again
 - (2) Be consecrated
 - (3) Be a person of prayer
 - (4) Be a lover and student of the Bible
 - (5) Have compassion
 - (6) Rely on the Holy Spirit
- C) Join the visitation group

XXI) STEWARDSHIP (I Cor. 16:2)

- A) All we have belongs to God — time, talents, money, influence, etc.
- B) One tenth (tithe) to be given to God directly through the church
- C) Our church plan for giving
- D) Special offerings

XXII) CHRISTIAN LIFE

- A) Bible Reading
- B) Prayer
- C) Tithing
- D) Witnessing
- E) Church attendance
- F) Job responsibility
- G) Christian Home
- H) Social Life
- I) Ethics and Morality

THE BIBLE

I) IT IS AN INSPIRED BOOK (II Timothy 3:16, II Peter 1:21)

- A) The Meaning of Inspiration
 - (1) It was God—breathed
 - (2) It was guided by the Holy Spirit
 - (3) It is the product of divine operation
- B) The Extent of Inspiration
 - (1) Does the Bible only contain the Word of God?
 - (2) The original manuscripts are fully inspired and are without error.
 - (3) Why do we need translation?
- C) The Method of Inspiration
 - (1) Verbally inspired by God extending to every Word
 - (2) Inerrant in the original writings
 - (3) Preserved and transmitted to us through manuscripts and translations. (This view is held by all conservative Baptists who view the Bible as God’s authoritative Word without any mixture of errors.)
- D) Evidences of Inspiration
 - (1) The claims of the Bible itself (Isaiah 1:2; Jeremiah 1:4 Galatians 1:11-12; Timothy 3:16)
 - (2) The unity of the Bible (About 40 writers writing some 1600 years apart)
 - (3) The contents of the Bible itself (I Corinthians 2:14; John 7:4-6)
 - (4) The testimony of Jesus (Matthew 21:42; Matthew 22:29; Luke 24:27)
 - (5) The influence of the Bible
 - a. In the lives of individuals
 - b. In literature and art
 - c. In government and morality

II) A RELIGIOUS BOOK

- A) It is authoritative in the realm of religion
 - (1) It is authoritative in its message
 - (2) It is authoritative in its mission
- B) It is Sufficient
 - (1) It reveals all that is necessary for man to know to work out his destiny.
 - (2) It is not a book of rules, but of principles.
- C) It is Final (Revelation 22:18-19)

III) A LIVING BOOK (Hebrews 4:12; I Peter 1:23)

- A) It is described as seed (Luke 8:11)
- B) It is described as light (Psalm 119:105)
- C) It is described as fire (Jeremiah 23:29a; Psalm 119:9)
- D) It is described as a hammer (Jeremiah 23:29b)
- E) It is described as a sword (Ephesians 6:17)

GOD

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork” (Psalms 19:1)

I) GOD’S NAME (Isaiah 42:5; Exodus3:15; Exodus 6:2-3)

- A) It is descriptive of God — the great “I Am” (Exodus 3:14; Psalms 90:2)
- B) It is a Sacred name (Exodus 20:7)
- C) It is a memorial name.

II) GOD’S NATURE

- A) God is personal—possessing a distinct personality
 - (1) He is an intelligent being
 - (2) He has self—determination, or will
 - (3) He has the capacity for fellowship
- B) God is Holy
 - (1) His holiness reveals His wrath (John 3:36)
 - (2) His holiness reveals His righteousness (Isaiah 6:16)
 - (3) His holiness reveals His power (Ezekiel 36:20-24)
 - (4) His holiness reveals His glory (Exodus 15:11)
 - (5) His holiness reveals His wisdom (Ps. 139:2-4)
- C) God is Love (I John 4:8)
 - (1) His grace is evidence of His love
 - (2) His mercy is evidence of His love
 - (3) His compassion is evidence of His love
 - (4) His patience is expressed through His love

III) GOD’S TRIUNE PERSON

- A) He is one God (Isaiah 44:6; Deuteronomy 6:4; I Corinthians 8:4)
- B) He manifests Himself in a three—fold way — “Three Divine Personalities.”
 - (1) God the Father (Psalms 99:3)
 - (2) God the Son (John 1:18; 14:9)
 - (3) God the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-17; Acts 1:8)

IV) GOD’S WORK

- A) Creation (Genesis 1)
- B) Preservation (Romans 8:28; Psalms 91:11-12)
- C) Salvation (II Cor. 5:17; Ephesians 2:8)

JESUS CHRIST

“Thou shall call His name Jesus; for He shall save His people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21)

I) THE PRE-EXISTANCE OF CHRIST

- A) The Bible teaches His pre—existence
 - (1) He existed with God in the beginning (John 1:1)
 - (2) He was the agent of the creation (John 1:3; Col.1:16)
- B) Jesus taught of His pre—existence (John 8:58; John 17:5)

II) THE INCARNATION OF CHRIST (John 1:14; Phil. 2:6-7)

- A) He was truly man
 - (1) He grew in physical stature (Luke 2:52)
 - (2) He became tired and hungry (John 4:6; Matthew 4:2)
 - (3) He wept (John 11:35)
- B) He was truly God
 - (1) He made this claim Himself (John 14:9; John 10:30)
 - (2) He exercised the power of God by forgiving sin (Mark 2:5)
- C) He was the perfect God—Man (Phil. 2:5-11)

III) THE WONDER OF HIS LIFE

- A) His birth
 - (1) He was born of a virgin (Matthew 1:18-20; Luke 1:26-31)
 - (2) He was conceived through the power of God (Luke 1:35)
- B) His teachings
 - (1) He spoke with authority (Mark 1:22)
 - (2) His message was more than that of a mere man (John 7:46)
- C) His works
 - (1) They were the work of the Father (John 9:4)
 - (2) They were proof of His authority from God (John 5:36)
- D) His manner of life
 - (1) He was without sin (Hebrews 4:15)
 - (2) He was able to resist the devil (John 14:30)
- E) The significance of His Death (Romans 5:8)
 - (1) It was voluntary
 - a. He laid it down of His own accord (John 10:17-18)
 - b. He came into the world for this purpose (Matthew 20:28)
 - (2) It was substitutionary (Romans 3:24-26; Isaiah. 53:5-6)
 - (3) It was once for all (Hebrews 9:26-28)

F) His accomplishments after death

(1) His resurrection

- a. Completed His work on the Cross (Romans 4:25; I Corinthians 15:17)
- b. Furnishes proof of life beyond the grave (II Timothy 1:9-10)
- c. Made our resurrection possible
 - i. He became the first fruits of the resurrection (I Corinthians 15:20)
 - ii. He gave us the pattern of our resurrection body (Phil. 3:20-21)
 - iii. We shall be like Him (I John 3:2)

(2) His ascension

- a. He was taken bodily out of this world (Acts 1:9)
- b. He is now at the right hand of God (Hebrews 12:2)

IV) HIS PRESENT MINISTRY

- A) He is preparing a place for His church (John 14:2)
- B) He intercedes for us at God's right hand (Hebrews 7:25)

V) HIS FUTURE MINISTRY

- A) He shall return again (John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Hebrews 9:28; Revelations 22:20)
- B) He shall reign with His saints (II Timothy 2:12; 1 Corinthians 6:2-4)
- C) He shall reward His servants (Revelations 22:12)

THE HOLY SPIRIT

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you.” (Acts 1:8)

I) THE PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A) The Holy Spirit is a person
 - (1) He does the work of a person (John 15:26; 16:7-8)
 - (2) He is effected by human acts (Ephesians 4:30; Acts 7:51; Mark 3:29)
- B) The Holy Spirit is God
 - (1) He is called God (Acts 5:3)
 - (2) He does the work of God (Romans 8:11)

II) THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A) He was promised by the prophets (Joel 2:28-29)
- B) He was promised by Jesus (John 14:16-17; Luke 24:29)

III) THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A) He came at Pentecost (Acts 2:2-4)
- B) He was accompanied by signs
 - (1) The sound of a mighty rushing wind
 - (2) Tongues of fire
 - (3) Speaking in tongues
- C) Transforming Results Produced
 - (1) Boldness to testify for Christ (Acts 3:13)
 - (2) Convicting power (Acts 2:37)
 - (3) Saving Power (Acts 2:41)

IV) THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A) Conviction (Acts 16:30)
- B) Regeneration (John 3:5)
- C) Sanctification (Romans 15:16)
- D) Consolation (John 14:16-17)
- E) Illumination (John 16:13)
- F) Intercession (Romans 8:26-27)

V) THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT (Galatians 5:22-23)

VI) MAN'S RESPONSE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

A) The Negative Response

- (1) He may resist the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:51; Hebrews 3:8)
- (2) He may blaspheme the Holy Spirit (Mark 3:29)
- (3) He may grieve the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30)
- (4) He may quench the Holy Spirit (I Thessalonians 5:19)

B) The Positive Response

- (1) The indwelling or Baptism of the Spirit (Romans 8:9)
- (2) The filling of the Spirit (Acts 13:9)
- (3) The fullness of the Spirit (Acts 7:55; 11:24; Luke 4:1)

SATAN

“Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7)

I) THE FACT OF THE DEVIL

- A) The Bible teaches this fact (Job 1:6-7)
- B) Human experience attests to this fact (Ephesians 6:11-12)
- C) Jesus recognized his existence (Luke 10:18)

II) THE FALL OF THE DEVIL

- A) His character before the fall (Ezekiel 28:11-19)
 - (1) He was full of wisdom and perfect in beauty (Ezekiel 28:12)
 - (2) He was an anointed cherub (Ezekiel 28:14)
 - (3) He was perfect in his being (Ezekiel 28:15)
- B) His sins accompanying his fall (Isaiah 14:12-14)
 - (1) He sought self—exaltation
 - (2) He sought to usurp God’s power
 - (3) He sought to imitate God’s likeness

III) THE FEATURES OF THE DEVIL

- A) He is a liar and murderer (John 8:44)
- B) He is the origin of sin (1 John 3:8)
- C) He seeks to devour the Christian (1 Peter 5:8)

IV) THE FINISH OF THE DEVIL

- A) He was dealt a death blow at Calvary (1 John 3:8)
- B) He will be completely destroyed in the future (Revelation. 20:10)

ANGELS

“..some have entertained angels unawares.” (Hebrews 13:2)

I) THE REALITY OF ANGELS

- A) Their appearance in Biblical History
 - (1) They were present at the creation of the world (Job 38:7)
 - (2) They were present at the fall of Adam (Genesis 3:24)
 - (3) The angel of the Lord appeared to Moses (Exodus 3:2)
 - (4) The captain of the Lord’s host appeared to Joshua (Joshua 5:13-25)
- B) Their appearance in Christ’s ministry
 - (1) The angel foretold His birth to Mary (Luke 1:30-33)
 - (2) They proclaimed His birth to the Shepherds (Luke 2:8-11)
 - (3) They strengthened Him in Gethsemane (Luke 22:43)
 - (4) An angel rolled away the stone from His tomb (Matthew 28:2)
 - (5) They proclaimed His return to earth (Acts 2:9-11)
- C) Their Characteristics
 - (1) They are created beings (Psalm 148:5)
 - (2) They are countless in number (Hebrews 12:22)
 - (3) They are immortal, they cannot die (Luke 20:34-36)
 - (4) They are not to be worshipped (Revelation 22:8-9)

II) THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF ANGELS

- A) They minister to the saints (Hebrews 1:13-14)
- B) They praise and worship God ~Psa1m 103:20)
- C) They strengthen in trial (Luke 22:43)
- D) They direct God’s called servants (Acts 8:26)
- E) They are present in the Church (I Timothy 5:21)

MAN

“What is man that thou art mindful of him?” (Psalms 8:4a)

I) THE ORIGIN OF MAN

- A) The fact of creation (Genesis 1:27)
- B) The method of creation (Genesis 2:7)
- C) A helpmeet for man (Genesis 21:21-23)

II) THE NATURE OF MAN

- A) A twofold nature — Body and Soul
- B) Made in God’s image (Genesis 1:26)
 - (1) Intelligence
 - (2) Knowledge of right and wrong
 - (3) A freedom to choose
 - (4) Immortality (Eccl. 12:7)
 - (5) Dominion over God’s works (Psalms 8:4-6)

III) THE HOME OF MAN

- A) Location — Eastward in Eden (Genesis 2:8)
- B) Provision (Genesis 2:9, 17)
- C) Occupation (Genesis 2:15)

IV) THE FALL OF MAN

- A) The agent of the fall (Genesis 3:1; Revelation 12:9)
- B) The account of the fall (Genesis 3:2-7)
- C) The results of the fall
 - (1) To Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:17-19)
 - a. Physical death—separation of the soul from the body
 - b. Spiritual death—separation of the soul from God
 - (2) To the Human Race (Romans 5:12,17-19)
 - a. Corruptness to all men (Matthew 7:17-18)
 - b. Total depravity (Genesis 6:5)
 - (3) Provision for Infants (II Sam. 12:23)

SIN

“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

I) THE UNIVERSALITY OF SIN

- A) All are sinners (Romans 3:23; Galatians 3:22; 1 John 1:8,10)
- B) All are totally depraved (Rom. 3:10-12)
- C) All are lost and separated from God (Romans 8:7-8)

II) THE NATURE OF SIN

- A) Sin is ungodliness (Romans 1:18)
 - (1) It causes man to rebel against God
 - (2) It expresses itself in idolatry (Rom. 1:21,23)
- B) Sin is Unrighteousness (Romans 1:18)
 - (1) It manifests itself in our relationship with current man (Mark 7:21-23; Galatians 5:19-21)
 - (2) It stems from a sense of pride and self—love (Romans 1:21)
- C) Sin is Unbelief (John 3:18; Hebrews 3:19)
 - (1) This reveals man’s own inner mind and heart
 - (2) Man is an unbeliever by his own choice (Romans 1:25)

III) THE RESULTS OF SIN

- A) It separates man from God (Ephesians 2:12)
- B) All men are guilty before God (Romans 3:19)
- C) It ends in death (Romans 6:23a)

SALVATION

“By grace are ye saved through faith.” (Ephesians 2:8)

I) THE CONVERSION EXPERIENCE

A) Our Part

- (1) Repentance — turning away from sin (Luke 18:13)
 - a. It is a change in living (Matthew. 3:8)
 - b. It is a necessary experience (Luke 13:3)
 - c. It is accompanied by restitution (Luke 19:8)
- (2) Faith — turning to Christ (Acts 20:21)
 - a. Belief (Acts 16:31)
 - b. Acceptance (John 1:12)
 - c. Confession (Romans 10:9)
 - d. Surrender (Revelation 3:20)

B) God’s Part

- (1) Regeneration — a new birth (John 3:3; II Corinthians.5:17)
- (2) Justification — declared righteous by God (Romans 5:1-2)
- (3) Adoption — into God’s family (Romans 8:15; Galatians 3:26)
- (4) Reconciliation — a changed relationship with God (II Corinthians.5:18-20)
- (5) Sanctification — growing in spiritual maturity (I Peter 2:2)

II) FACTS CONCERNING SALVATION

- A) It is a free gift (Romans 6:23b)
- B) It is a personal experience (Romans 14:12)
- C) It is eternal in duration (John 3:36; John 10:27-29; Phil. 1:6)
- D) It is provided for all people (II Peter 3:9; John 3:16)

SANCTIFICATION

I) THE SUBSTANCE OF SANCTIFICATION

- A) It is a supernatural work (I Peter 1:2)
- B) It is an internal work (Psalm 51:6)
- C) It is an extensive work (I Thes. 5:23)
- D) It is a progressive work
 - (1) It begins at conversion (I Cor. 6:11)
 - (2) It continues throughout life (II Peter 3:18)
 - (3) It reaches full maturity at Christ's return (I Thes. 3:12-13)

II) THE SECRETS OF SANCTIFICATION

- A) Its source is from God (I Thes. 5:23)
- B) Its medium is through Christ (I Cor. 6:11)
- C) The Holy Spirit is the agent (II Thes. 2:13)
- D) We are sanctified through God's word (John 17:17)
- E) We are sanctified through prayer (Psalm 51:10)

III) THE SIGNS OF SANCTIFICATION

- A) Separation from sin (James 4:4)
- B) Conformity to Christ's likeness (Romans 8:28-29)
- C) A Well-Ordered life (I Peter 1:15)

IV) THE SUMMONS TO SANCTIFICATION

- A) God demands it (Eph. 1:4)
- B) Without it there is no vision (Heb. 12:14)

ASSURANCE

“I know whom. I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day.” (II Timothy 1:12)

I) THE SOURCE OF ASSURANCE

- A) The promises of God (John 6:37; Romans 10:13)
- B) The completeness of Christ’s atoning work (John 19:30)
- C) The intercessory work of Christ (Hebrews 2:18, 7:25)
- D) The righteousness of the Lord (Isaiah 53:11)
- E) The inner witness of the Spirit (I John 4:13)

II) THE SCOPE OF ASSURANCE

- A) The Aspects of our Assurance
 - (1) Full assurance of faith (Hebrews 10:22)
 - (2) Full assurance of understanding (Colossians 2:2)
 - (3) Full assurance of hope (Hebrews 6:11)
 - (4) Full assurance of security (John 10:27-29; Romans 8:33-39; Heb. 7:25; Philippians 1:6)
- B) Facts embraced by our Assurance
 - (1) Salvation (Isaiah 12:2)
 - (2) Adoption (I John 3:2)
 - (3) Love for others (I John 3:14)
 - (4) Holiness of life (I John 5:18)
 - (5) Contentment amidst all circumstances (Hebrews 13:5)
 - (6) Peace of soul (Ephesians 2:13-14)
 - (7) Witness among the Lost (I Thessalonians 1:5)

PRAYER

“Pray without ceasing.” (I Thessalonians 5:17)

I) THE REALM OF PRAYER

- A) We should pray for all things (Phil. 4:6)
- B) We should pray for one another (James 5:13-16)
- C) We should pray for our own Spiritual perfection (Col. 4:12)

II) THE RULES OF PRAYER

- A) It must be accompanied by faith (Matthew 21:21-22)
- B) It must be offered in Christ’s name (John 16:23)
- C) It must be done simply (Matthew 6:6)
- D) It should be in secret (Matthew 6:5)
- E) It should be persistent (Matthew 7:7)
- F) It should be done humbly (Luke 18:9-14)
- G) It should be done with a consciousness that we are right with others (Matthew 6:14-15)

III) THE REFUSALS OF PRAYER

- A) Answer to prayer is sometimes delayed (Matthew 17:1-4)
- B) Prayers God will not answer
 - (1) When it is substituted for action (Exodus 14:15)
 - (2) When it proceeds from an unclean heart (Psalms 66:18)
 - (3) When it simply expresses repetitious phrases (Matthew 6:7)
 - (4) When it lacks sincerity (Matthew 6:5)
 - (5) When it seeks to recall lost opportunities (Luke 13:25-28)

THE CHURCH

“Upon this rock I will build my Church.” (Matthew 16:18)

The Church is a company of baptized believers, voluntarily associated in covenant relations, according to the New Testament pattern, and pledged to live in obedience to Christ, the great head of the Church.

I) THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH

- A) It is a living organism (I Peter 2:5)
- B) It is the body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23)
- C) It is composed of many members (I Cor. 12:12-14)
- D) It is the temple of God (I Cor. 3:16)

II) THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

- A) It is a Democracy
 - (1) Membership is voluntary (Acts 2:47)
 - (2) Each member has equal privileges (I Cor. 12:25)
 - (3) It is a Christ-governed body (Col. 1:18)
- B) It is an independent organization
 - (1) In its relation to other churches
 - (2) In its relation to denominational bodies
 - (3) In its relation to civil government (Matt. 22:21)

III) THE OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

- A) The Pastor – or Shepherd
 - (1) The Qualifications of a Pastor (I Timothy 3:1-7)
 - a. Upright in Character (v.1)
 - b. Able to Teach (v.2)
 - c. Separated in his living (v.3)
 - d. A leader in his home (v.4-5)
 - e. A proven record (v.6)
 - f. Above reproach in community (v.7)
 - (2) The Duties of the Pastor
 - a. Preacher (II Tim. 4:2)
 - b. Teacher (II Tim. 2:2)
 - c. Leader (II Tim. 4:4)
 - d. Equipper of the saints for their ministry (Eph. 4:11-12)
 - (3) The Support of the Pastor
 - a. Is worthy of his wages (Luke 10:7)
 - b. Should receive living through the Gospel (I Cor. 9:13-14)

- B) The Deacon — or Servant
 - (1) The origin of the office (Acts 6:1-4)
 - (2) Qualifications of the deacon (I Timothy 3:8-13)
 - (3) Duties of the Deacon
 - a. To free the pastor to do his work (Acts 6:2-3)
 - b. To minister to all the needs of the Church (Acts 6:2-3)
 - c. Spiritual leaders of the Church (Acts 6.3)

IV) THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

- A) Baptism
 - (1) The Origin of Baptism
 - a. John was commissioned by God (John 1:33)
 - b. Jesus submitted to it (Matthew 3:13-17)
 - c. Jesus commanded it (Matthew 28:19)
 - (2) The Act of Baptism
 - a. The Greek word baptism means to immerse
 - b. The New Testament language describes it as immersion (Acts 8:38-39)
 - c. Immersion alone symbolizes a death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:4-5)
 - (3) The Subject of Baptism
 - a. Believers only are to be baptized (Acts 2:38,41)
 - b. Without faith Christ it is meaningless (Acts 19:1-5)
 - (4) The Symbolism of Baptism
 - a. It points back to Christ's burial and resurrection (Romans 6:3-4)
 - b. It proclaims the death of the old man and rebirth of the new man in Christ (I Corinthians 5:17)
 - c. It expresses hope of the resurrection of the body at Christ's return (I Corinthians 15:51-52)
- B) The Lord's Supper
 - (1) It is a memorial to Christ's broken body and shed blood (Matthew 26:26-28)
 - (2) It proclaims Christ's death (I Corinthians 11:26)
 - (3) It is a church ordinance only (Acts 2:42)
 - (4) It is not to be taken lightly (I Corinthians 11:27)
- C) These Ordinances Symbolize the Heart of the Gospel (I Corinthians 15:1-4)

"Ye shall be witnesses unto me" (Acts 1.8)

V) THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE CHURCH

- A) General Obligations
 - (1) To the Lord
 - a. Must follow His orders (Matthew 28:20)
 - b. Must wait for His return (I Thessalonians 1:10 Luke 12.40)
 - (2) To the Truth
 - a. Must guard it loyally (I Timothy 3:15)
 - b. Must proclaim it joyfully (Mark 16:15)

- (3) To the World
 - a. Must seek the salvation of others (Luke 24.47-48)
 - b. Must separate itself from the world (II Cor. 6.17)

B) Individual and Personal Obligation

- (1) Personal loyalty to the Word of God (I Timothy 4:16)
- (2) Personal holiness of life (I Timothy 3:5)
- (3) Personal home life (I Timothy 3:5)
- (4) Personal reverence (Eccl. 5:1-2)

VI) THE OUTLOOK OF THE CHURCH (I Thes. 5:9-23)

- A) An assurance of our salvation (v. 9-10)
- B) A mutual edification of one another (v.11)
- C) A respect for its elders (v. 12-13)
- D) A general concern for all (v. 14-15)
- E) Be thankful to God always (v. 16-18)
- F) Stand fast in the Lord (v. 19-23)

THE WORLD TO COME

I) DEATH

- A) Who must die
 - (1) It is the common lot of all (Hebrews 9:27)
 - (2) There are these exceptions
 - a. Enoch was translated (Genesis 5:24; Hebrews 11:5)
 - b. Elijah was taken in a chariot (II Kings 2:11)
 - c. Some will be alive at Christ's coming (I Thessalonians 4:17)
 - (3) Those who do not die must undergo a change (I Cor. 15:50-52)
- B) What happens at death
 - (1) There is a separation of the Soul from the body (Eccl. 12:7)
 - (2) The body sleeps (Acts 7:60, Acts 13:36; I Thessalonians 4:13)
 - (3) The Soul departs into another world (II Timothy 4:6)

II) THE INTERMEDIATE STATE

- A) The Righteous
 - (1) The Soul does not sleep with the body
 - a. Paul's desire was to depart to be with Christ (Philippians 1:23)
 - b. Absence from the body moans presence with the Lord (II Corinthians 5:8)
 - (2) They are in Paradise (Luke 23:43)
 - (3) They are happy (Revelation 14:13)
 - (4) There is no mention of purgatory
- B) The Wicked
 - (1) They are in torment (Luke 16:22-23)
 - (2) They await a final judgment (II Peter 2:9)
 - (3) They face eternal separation from God (II Thessalonians 1:8-9)

III) THE RETURN OF CHRIST

- A) The Certainty of His Return
 - (1) It was declared by angels (Acts 1:10-11)
 - (2) Jesus was emphatic about His return (John 14:3, 28)
 - (3) Paul preached His return (I Thessalonians 4:16)
- B) The Nature of His Return
 - (1) It will be personal and visible (Revelation 1:7)
 - (2) It will be sudden (Matthew 24:27)
 - (3) It will be unexpected (Matthew. 24:38-39, 44)
 - (4) It will be with great glory (Matthew 25:31; Mark 13:26)
- C) The Time of His Coming
 - (1) It will be known only by the Father (Mark 13:32)
 - (2) It is not meant for us to know (Acts 1:1)
 - (3) The Christian should always be ready (I Thessalonians 5:6)

IV) THE PREMILLENNIAL RETURN OF CHRIST

- A) The Rapture of the Church (I Thessalonians 4:16-17)
 - (1) Christ Himself shall appear (I Thessalonians 4:16)
 - (2) The dead in Christ shall rise (I Thessalonians 4:16)
 - (3) Living Christians shall be taken up (I Thessalonians 4:17)
 - (4) A great change shall take place (I Corinthians 15:51-53)
 - (5) This will culminate in the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7-9)
- B) The Tribulation (Matthew 24:7-14; 21)
 - (1) 144,000 Jews sealed (Revelation 7:1-8)
 - (2) A multitude will be saved (Revelation. 7:9-11)
 - (3) Those who rejected Christ will continue to do so (II Thessalonians 2:11-12)
 - (4) This period concludes with the Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 16:13-16)
- C) The Return of Christ to Earth (Matthew 24:29-30) (Revelation 19:11-16)
 - (1) The beast and false prophet are cast into Lake of Fire (Revelation 19:20)
 - (2) Nations will be judged (Matthew 25:31-33)
- D) The Millennial Kingdom is Set Up (Revelation 20:1)
 - (1) Satan is bound 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1-3)
 - (2) The Saints will reign with Christ 1,000 years (Revelation 20:4)
 - (3) The created order is restored (Isaiah 11:6-9)
 - (4) Perfect peace shall prevail (Isaiah 2:4)
- E) Satan's Last Rebellion (Revelation 20:7-9)
- F) The White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15)
 - (1) The unregenerate dead are resurrected (Revelation 20:5-6; 13)
 - (2) They are judged according to their works (Revelation 20:12)
 - (3) They are cast into Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:14-15)
- G) All Things Are Made New (Revelation 21:1-5)

V) HEAVEN

- A) It is a Literal Dwelling Place (John 14:1-3)
 - (1) It is a prepared place (John 14:2)
 - (2) It is an inhabited place
 - a. God has always been there (Matthew 6:9)
 - b. Christ is there as the center of Glory (Hebrews 9:24)
 - c. It is the habitation of angels (Matthew 18:10)
 - d. The saints will all be there (John 14:3)
 - (3) It is a perfect place (Revelation 7:17)
 - (4) It is a permanent place (II Thes. 4:17)
- B) The Things That Will be Missing in Heaven
 - (1) No sickness, nor pain (Revelation 2:14)
 - (2) No hunger, nor thirst (Revelation 7:16-17)
 - (3) No death (I Cor. 15:26)
 - (4) No sin (Revelation 21:27)

- C) The Things That Will be Present in Heaven
 - (1) There are pleasures forever more (Psalms 16:11)
 - (2) There is rest from weary labor (Hebrews 4:9-10)
 - (3) There is unceasing service (Revelation 7:15)
 - (4) There is perfect knowledge (I Corinthians 13:12)
 - (5) There will be happy reunion with loved ones (II Sam. 12:23; I Thessalonians 4:17)
 - (6) We shall be like Him (I John 3:1-3)

VI) HELL

- A) It is a Literal Place
 - (1) It was prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41)
 - (2) It is a place of outer darkness (Matt. 8:12)
 - (3) It is a place of eternal torment (Luke 16:23-25, 28)
- B) It is a Place of Punishment
 - (1) Its occupants will be separated from God (Matthew 7:23)
 - (2) They shall be accursed (Matthew 25:41)
 - (3) There will be eternal unrest and misery (Revelation 14:11)
- C) It Will Be Consumed by The Lake of Fire (Revelation.20:14)
 - (1) The beast and false prophet will be its occupants (Revelation 19:20)
 - (2) The devil will be there (Revelation 20:10)
 - (3) All the unsaved will be there (Revelation 20:15)
- D) The Only Escape is Now (Luke 16:26)
 - (1) Repentance is necessary (Luke 13:3)
 - (2) Belief in Christ is necessary (John 3:36)
 - (3) Each must make his own choice (John 3:36)
 - (4) There is no condemnation for the saved (Rom. 8:1)