



CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

ARTICLE IV – DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

Constitution and Bylaws

Grace Bible Church

The Holy Scriptures	2
God	2
God the Father	3
God the Son	3
God the Holy Spirit	4
Creation	5
Man	6
Salvation	7
Election	7
Justification	8
Sanctification	8
Regeneration	9
Faith	9
Repentance	10
Preservation	10
Glorification	10
The Church	11
Baptism and the Lord's Supper	13
Angels	13
Holy Angels	13
Fallen Angels	13
Evangelism and Missions	14
Stewardship	15
Gender, Marriage, and Family	15
Last Things	16
Death	16
The Rapture of the Church	17
The Tribulation Period	17
The Second Coming and the Millennial Reign	17
The Judgment of the Lost	18
Eternity	18

Constitution and Bylaws

Grace Bible Church

Article IV – Doctrinal Statement

The Holy Scriptures

The Holy Bible is divinely inspired. Every word of it, written by men, was also breathed out by God as the record of God's revelation of Himself to man. Thus the sixty-six books of the Bible given to us by the Holy Spirit constitute the plenary (inspired equally in all parts) Word of God.¹ The Word of God is verbally inspired in every word, absolutely inerrant in the original documents, infallible, and God-breathed.² God spoke in His written Word by a process of dual authorship.³ The Holy Spirit so superintended the human authors that, through their individual personalities and different styles of writing, they composed and recorded God's Word to man⁴ without error in the whole or in the part⁵. The single, true interpretation of Scripture is to be found as one diligently applies the literal grammatical-historical method of interpretation, taking account of its literary forms and devices.⁶ This interpretation can only be found in dependence on the enlightenment given by the Holy Spirit.⁷ The truth of Scripture stands in judgment of men; never do men stand in judgment of it.⁸ Being infallible, the Bible is sufficient to make the believer complete, equipped in every way necessary for godly living.⁹ The Scripture will remain unchanged in its authority and efficacy forever.¹⁰

¹2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21 ²2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 6:18 ³Exodus 24:3-7; John 16:12-13 ⁴2 Peter 1:20-21
⁵Matthew 5:18 ⁶2 Timothy 2:15 ⁷1 Kings 22:27; 1 Corinthians 2:11-12 ⁸John 12:47-48; Hebrews 4:12 ⁹1 Timothy 1:3-11; 2 Timothy 3:16-4:2; Psalm 19:7-10 ¹⁰Matthew 24:35; 1 Peter 1:23-25; Psalm 19:9a

God

There is one and only one living and true God.¹ He is an intelligent², spiritual³, and personal Being⁴, as well as the Creator⁵, Redeemer⁶, Preserver⁷, and Ruler of the universe⁸. God is infinite in holiness⁹ and perfect in all His attributes¹⁰. To Him is owed the highest love¹¹, reverence¹², and obedience¹³. The eternal God is one in essence¹⁴, eternally existing in the Trinity (three Persons as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)¹⁵.

¹1 Corinthians 8:4 ²Romans 11:33-34 ³John 4:24 ⁴Exodus 3:14 ⁵Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11 ⁶Psalm 49:7-9, 15; 1 Peter 1:18-19 ⁷Colossians 1:14 ⁸Psalm 103:19 ⁹1 Peter 1:16; Job 37:22-23 ¹⁰Matthew 5:48 ¹¹Matthew 22:37 ¹²Psalm 33:8 ¹³John 3:36; 2 Thessalonians 1:8 ¹⁴Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5-7 ¹⁵Matthew 28:19

Constitution and Bylaws

Grace Bible Church

God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the course of human history, and disposes all things according to His own purpose and grace.¹ He is all powerful, all loving, and all wise.² He is sovereign in creation, providence, and redemption.³ God is Father in both His designation in the Trinity⁴ and in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ⁵. As Creator, He is father to all men⁶, but He is spiritual father only to believers.⁷ He has decreed for His own glory all things that come to pass and He works all things after the counsel of His own will.⁸ He continually upholds, directs, and governs all creatures and events.⁹ In His sovereignty He is neither author nor approver of sin¹⁰, nor does He abridge the accountability of moral, intelligent creatures¹¹. He has graciously chosen from eternity past those whom He would have as His own¹²; He saves from sin all those who come to Him; and He becomes, upon adoption Father to His own¹³.

¹Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 104; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 1:11 ²Psalm 62:11; 1 John 4:8; Psalm 36:7; Psalm 147:5
³Genesis 1:1-31; Psalm 103:19; Ephesians 3:9; Romans 11:36 ⁴John 5:17-26; 8:54; 14:12-13 ⁵1 John 3:1; Matthew 6:6-15; Romans 8:16 ⁶Ephesians 3:14-15, Hebrews 12:9; ⁷Romans 8:14; 2 Corinthians 6:17-18 ⁸Proverbs 16:1, 4; Lamentations 3:37-38; Ephesians 1:11; 3:15 ⁹Job 37:1-13; 1 Chronicles 29:11; Proverbs 16:33; Acts 3:18 ¹⁰Habakkuk 1:13; Job 34:10 ¹¹1 Peter 1:17; Matthew 16:27; 1 Kings 12:1-15 ¹²Ephesians 1:4-6 ¹³John 1:12; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:5

God the Son

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God¹, possessing all the fullness of the divine nature and attributes². In these, He is coequal, consubstantial, and coeternal with the Father.³ God the Father created all things according to His own will, through His Son, Jesus Christ.⁴ In Christ, all things continue in existence and in operation.⁵

In His incarnation, Jesus Christ was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin.⁶ In the incarnation, Christ willingly surrendered only the prerogatives of deity⁷ but nothing of the divine essence, either in degree or kind⁸. In His incarnation, Christ took upon Himself the demands and necessities of human nature and identified Himself completely with mankind⁹ yet without sin¹⁰. Jesus Christ represents humanity and deity in indivisible oneness.¹¹

Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God.¹² In His death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin.¹³ His death was voluntary¹⁴, vicarious¹⁵, substitutionary¹⁶, propitiatory¹⁷, redemptive¹⁸, and effective¹⁹.

He was raised from the dead²⁰ with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion²¹. Our justification is

Constitution and Bylaws

Grace Bible Church

made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead.²² In the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave, God confirmed the deity of His Son²³ and gave proof that God has accepted the atoning work of Christ on the cross²⁴. Jesus' bodily resurrection is also the guarantee of a future resurrection life for all believers.²⁵

He ascended into heaven²⁶ and is now exalted at the right hand of God²⁷. In heaven, He is now our sole Mediator and Advocate, making intercession for those who draw near to God.²⁸

Jesus Christ will come to receive the church unto Himself at the rapture.²⁹ He will then return in glory and establish His kingdom on earth and reign for 1,000 years.³⁰ The Lord Jesus Christ is the One through whom God will judge all mankind.³¹ As the mediator between God and man³², the head of His body the church³³, and the coming universal King who will reign on the throne of David³⁴, He is the final judge of all who fail to place their trust in Him as Lord and Savior.³⁵

Jesus Christ now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.³⁶

¹John 1:9, 17:5, 24 ²Colossians 1:19, 2:9; Hebrews 1:3 ³Psalms 110:1; Zechariah 13:7; John 10:30-33, 14:9; Philippians 2:6 ⁴John 1:3; I Corinthians 8:6 ⁵Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3 ⁶Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:34-35 ⁷Philippians 2:7-8 ⁸Colossians 1:19, 2:9 ⁹Hebrews 2:17-18 ¹⁰Hebrews 4:15 ¹¹Isaiah 9:6; Micah 5:2; John 10:30, 14:9 ¹²John 5:30, 8:28-29 ¹³Romans 3:24; Hebrews 7:25-27; 1 Peter 1:18-19, 3:18 ¹⁴John 10:14-15, 17-18 ¹⁵Romans 5:6-8, 6:4; Galatians 2:20 ¹⁶2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18 ¹⁷Romans 3:25; I John 2:2 ¹⁸Romans 3:24; Titus 2:14 ¹⁹John 3:16; Hebrews 10:14 ²⁰Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:6-7 ²¹John 20:16, 19-20, 26; 1 Corinthians 15:5-8 ²²Romans 4:23-25, 5:10, 18 ²³Acts 2:32-36 ²⁴Romans 4:25 ²⁵Isaiah 53:10-12; 1 Corinthians 15:20, 23; 1 Thessalonians 4:14 ²⁶Acts 1:9 ²⁷Acts 2:34; Hebrews 1:3, 10:12 ²⁸Hebrews 7:25, 9:15, 24; 1 John 2:1 ²⁹1 Corinthians 15:51-53; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; ³⁰Matthew 25:31; Revelation 20:6 ³¹Matthew 25:31-46; John 5:22-23; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:11-15 ³²1 Timothy 2:5 ³³Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18 ³⁴Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 1:31-33 ³⁵Matthew 25:14-46; Acts 17:30-31; Revelation 20:11-15 ³⁶Romans 8:10; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 3:17; Colossians 1:27

God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is a divine person possessing all the attributes of deity including personality¹, intellect², emotions³, will⁴, eternality⁵, omnipresence⁶, omniscience⁷, omnipotence⁸, and truthfulness⁹. In all the divine attributes He is coequal and consubstantial with the Father and the Son.¹⁰

It is the work of the Holy Spirit to execute the divine will with relation to all mankind.¹¹ His sovereign activity is displayed in creation,¹² the incarnation,¹³ the written revelation,¹⁴ and the work of salvation.¹⁵

A unique work of the Holy Spirit in this age began at Pentecost¹⁶ when He came from the Father as promised by Christ¹⁷ to initiate¹⁸ the building of the body of Christ.¹⁹ The Holy Spirit glorifies neither Himself nor those whom He gifts by showy displays.²⁰ Rather, He glorifies Christ by implementing His work of salvation in the lost and incrementally transforming believers into greater Christ-likeness²¹. He

Constitution and Bylaws

Grace Bible Church

convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment²², effects regeneration²³, and baptizes all believers into the body of Christ.²⁴ His presence in the Christian is God's pledge to bring the believer into the fullness of his redemption.²⁵

The Holy Spirit bestows the spiritual gifts²⁶ by which believers serve God by serving His church²⁷ for the maturing of the saints today²⁸. Gifts such as speaking in tongues, prophecy, and the working of sign miracles in the beginning days of the church were for the purpose of pointing to and authenticating the apostles and prophets as revealers of divine truth, and were never intended to be characteristic of the lives of believers.²⁹ The Holy Spirit is the divine teacher who guided the apostles and prophets into all truth as they committed to writing God's revelation, the New Testament Scriptures.³⁰ Through illumination, He enables men to understand truth.³¹ He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship³², evangelism³³, and service³⁴.

The Holy Spirit permanently indwells the believer.³⁵ He sanctifies³⁶, instructs³⁷, empowers for service³⁸, and seals us unto the day of redemption³⁹. It is the duty of all those born of the Spirit to be filled with the Spirit.⁴⁰

¹John 14:26, 16:13 ²¹Corinthians 2:10-13 ³Ephesians 4:30 ⁴¹Corinthians 12:11 ⁵Hebrews 9:14 ⁶Psalms 139:7-10 ⁷Isaiah 40:13-14
⁸Job 32:8; Romans 15:13 ⁹John 16:13 ¹⁰Matthew 28:19; Acts 5:3-4; 16:6-7; 28:25-26; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14;
Hebrews 10:15-17 ¹¹John 16:8-11 ¹²Genesis 1:2, 26 ¹³Matthew 1:18 ¹⁴2 Peter 1:20-21 ¹⁵John 3:5-7 ¹⁶Acts 2:4 ¹⁷John 14:16-17; 15:26
¹⁸John 16:13-14; Acts 1:8 ¹⁹Ephesians 2:22 ²⁰¹Corinthians 12:4-11 ²¹²Corinthians 3:6, 17-18 ²²John 16:8 ²³Titus 3:5-7 ²⁴¹
Corinthians 12:13 ²⁵Ephesians 1:13-14; 1 John 4:13 ²⁶¹Corinthians 12:4-11 ²⁷Acts 2:4; 1 Corinthians 14:5, 26; 1 Peter 4:10-11
²⁸Ephesians 4:7-16 ²⁹¹Corinthians 13:8-10; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 2:19-20; 3:4-5; Hebrews 2:1-4 ³⁰John 16:13; 1 Timothy
5:18; 2 Peter 1:20-21 ³¹¹Corinthians 2:14-16 ³²Ephesians 5:18-20 ³³Acts 1:8; 4:8-12 ³⁴¹Corinthians 12:7-11 ³⁵Romans 8:9; 1
Corinthians 3:16 ³⁶²Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 5:16-18 ³⁷¹John 2:27 ³⁸²Corinthians 3:5-6 ³⁹Ephesians 1:13 ⁴⁰Ephesians 5:18; 1
Thessalonians 5:19

Creation

God created the universe and everything in it *ex-nihilo* (out of nothing) in six, consecutive, 24-hour days.¹ The Triune God (the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) actively, fully, and harmoniously created all things by Himself and for His glory.² God acted freely in creating all things and all of creation is dependent on the sovereign word of God.³ God created the earth and the entire universe with all systems in mature operation and appearance.⁴

God created humanity as the culminating work of His creation, consisting of two genders (male and female). All of humanity, both male and female, are created in the image and likeness of God.⁵ Each of these two distinct, complementary genders reflects the image of God.⁶ God created only one race of mankind, and all people alive today are the descendants of Adam and Eve and, subsequently, Noah.⁷ God created Adam and Eve to govern and rule the earth for him.⁸ God also created and

Constitution and Bylaws

Grace Bible Church

established marriage to be a life-long covenant relationship between one man and one woman.⁹

Creation has been subjected to futility by God, under the curse of sin¹⁰, and will be redeemed, along with all of the children of God, at the return of Jesus Christ¹¹.

¹Genesis 1:1-2:3; Exodus 20:11, 31:17; Psalm 33:6, 9; Isaiah 45:18; Nehemiah 9:6; Hebrews 11:3 ²Genesis 1:2; Job 26:13, 33:4; Psalm 104:30; John 1:3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:10; Revelation 4:11 ³Ephesians 1:11; Hebrews 1:3; Revelation 4:11 ⁴Genesis 1:12-30 ⁵Genesis 1:26-27; 2:21-23; 1 Corinthians 11:8-9 ⁶Genesis 1:27, 5:2, 9:6; 1 Corinthians 11:7; James 3:9 ⁷Genesis 1:26-27, 3:20, 10:1, 10:32; Romans 5:12; 1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 2:5 ⁸Genesis 1:27-31; Genesis 2:15, 18 ⁹Genesis 2:18-24; Matthew 19:8-9; Mark 10:6-9 ¹⁰Genesis 3:14-19; Ecclesiastes 7:13; Romans 5:20 ¹¹Isaiah 11:1-10; 65:17-25; Romans 5:12-21; 8:18-25; Hebrews 2:5-8

Man

God created man for His own glory.¹ Man was directly and immediately created by the special act of God, in His own image and likeness, and is the crowning work of His creation.² In the beginning man was innocent of sin³ and was endowed by his Creator with intelligence⁴, volition⁵, and moral responsibility to God⁶. God provided everything necessary for man to glorify God enjoy God's fellowship and live his life in the will of God.⁷

By his free choice, Adam sinned against God⁸ and brought sin into the human race⁹. In Adam's sin of disobedience to the revealed will and word of God¹⁰, man lost his innocence¹¹; incurred the penalty of spiritual and physical death¹²; became subject to the wrath of God¹³; and became inherently corrupt and utterly incapable of choosing or doing that which is acceptable to God¹⁴. All men are sinners by nature, by choice, and by divine declaration¹⁵. Man is spiritually dead in his sins and is incapable of saving himself; therefore, salvation is wholly of God's grace.¹⁶

¹Ecclesiastes 12:13; Romans 11:36; Colossians 1:16 ²Genesis 1:26-31; 2:7; Psalm 8:5-8; Proverbs 8:22-31; 1 Corinthians 6:3 ³Genesis 1:27; Ecclesiastes 7:29 ⁴Genesis 2:19-20 ⁵Genesis 2:16-17, 3:6 ⁶Genesis 3:17-19; Romans 1:18-20 ⁷Genesis 1:31; 2:18-25; ⁸Genesis 3:6 ⁹Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 ¹⁰Genesis 2:16-17 ¹¹Genesis 3:7-8; Romans 5:18-19 ¹²Genesis 2:16-17; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:1 ¹³Genesis 3:16-24; John 3:36; Ephesians 2:3 ¹⁴Genesis 6:5; Job 14:4; Jeremiah 17:9; John 3:19, 6:44 ¹⁵Psalm 14:1-3; Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:3 ¹⁶Ephesians 2:1-9

Constitution and Bylaws

Grace Bible Church

Salvation

Salvation is the redemption of the whole man, involving both his immaterial soul¹ and material body², and references a past³, present⁴, and future⁵ work of God on behalf of his saints. Salvation is given freely⁶ to all who believe in Jesus Christ⁷, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer⁸. Salvation is wholly of God by grace and not on the basis of human merit or works.⁹ In its broadest sense, salvation includes regeneration¹⁰, sanctification¹¹, and glorification¹².

¹James 1:21, 5:20 ²Job 19:25-27; 1 Corinthians 15:51-53; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 5:8-10 ³2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:5 ⁴1 Corinthians 1:18 ⁵Psalms 119:41; Hebrews 1:14; 9:28 ⁶Romans 5:15-17; Ephesians 2:8-9 ⁷John 1:12; Acts 4:12; 16:31 ⁸Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 9:12; 1 Peter 1:18-19 ⁹Romans 3:28; Ephesians 2:8-9; 2 Timothy 1:9 ¹⁰Ephesians 2:5 ¹¹1 Corinthians 1:2, 30; 1 Peter 1:1-2 ¹²Psalms 17:15; Romans 8:30, 2 Timothy 2:10

Election

Election is the act of God by which, before the foundation of the world, He chose in Christ those whom He graciously regenerates, saves, and sanctifies.¹

Sovereign election does not contradict or negate the responsibility of man to repent and trust in Christ.² Nevertheless, since sovereign grace includes the means of receiving the gift of salvation as well as the gift itself, sovereign election will result in what God has determined.³ All whom the Father calls to Himself will come in faith and all who come in faith, the Father will receive.⁴

The unmerited favor that God grants to totally depraved sinners is not related to any initiative on their part nor to God's anticipation of what they might do by their own will⁵, but is solely of His sovereign grace and mercy⁶.

Election should not be looked upon as based merely on abstract sovereignty. God is truly sovereign, but He exercises this sovereignty in harmony with His other attributes, especially His omniscience, justice, holiness, wisdom, grace, and love.⁷ This sovereignty will always exalt the will of God in a manner totally consistent with His character as revealed in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁸ God's sovereign election excludes boasting⁹ and promotes humility¹⁰.

¹Matthew 25:34, Romans 8:28-30; Ephesians 1:4-11; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 2:10; 1 Peter 1:1-2 ²Ezekiel 18:23, 32; 33:11; John 3:18-19; 5:40; Acts 13:46; 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 ³Proverbs 16:4; Romans 9:22-24; Ephesians 1:5, 11 ⁴John 6:37-40, 44; Acts 13:48 ⁵Job 23:13; Psalm 115:3; John 1:12-13; Romans 9:10-18; Ephesians 1:5 ⁶Titus 3:4-7 ⁷Romans 9:11-16 ⁸Matthew 11:25-30; John 5:19-20; 2 Timothy 1:9 ⁹1 Corinthians 1:29-31 ¹⁰Romans 9:20-21

Constitution and Bylaws

Grace Bible Church

Justification

Justification before God is an act of God¹ by which He declares righteous those who, through faith in Christ, repent of their sins² and confess Him as sovereign Lord.³ This righteousness is apart from any virtue or work of man⁴, is a gift of God's grace⁵, and involves the placing of our sins on Christ⁶ as well as the imputation of God's righteousness to us⁷. By this act, God remains just and becomes the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.⁸ Justification brings the believer into a relationship of peace and favor with God.⁹

¹Romans 8:33 ²Acts 2:38; Romans 5:1; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Isaiah 55:6-7 ³Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 12:3 ⁴Romans 4:4-5; Galatians 2:16; Titus 3:5-7 ⁵Romans 3:25 ⁶Isaiah 53:6; Colossians 2:14; 1 Peter 2:24 ⁷Romans 4:5-8; 2 Corinthians 5:21 ⁸Romans 3:26 ⁹Isaiah 61:10; Romans 5:1

Sanctification

Through justification, every believer is declared to be just and holy and, thus, is sanctified (set apart from sin) unto God.¹ By this sanctification, the believer is identified as a "saint," which has to do with the believer's position before God, not with his present walk.²

This instantaneous work of sanctification should not be confused with the God's work of progressive sanctification by which the believer is brought into greater conformity to the will of God³, the image and likeness of God, who is Christ⁴, and the teaching of Scripture⁵. This work of progressive sanctification is accomplished by the Holy Spirit⁶. Furthermore, any person who shows no evidence of the Holy Spirit's sanctifying work in his life has no legitimate claim to saving faith.⁷

Every saved person is a new creation in Christ and, therefore, is involved in a daily conflict with the flesh, even as God provides adequate resources for victory through the indwelling Holy Spirit.⁸ Growth in holiness is both God's doing and the believer's duty.⁹ Therefore, God's children are not passive in sanctification, but rather must actively pursue obedience to God, increasing conformity to Christlikeness, and, ultimately, the attainment of God's promises.¹⁰

This striving in no way contradicts grace, since it is God's grace which planned good works¹¹, produces tireless effort¹², and is that in which believers must grow¹³. Progress in godliness occurs incrementally¹⁴ when the believer responds in faith to what God has spoken¹⁵. Therefore, the gospel message¹⁶ as well as the promises, historical narratives, blessings, curses, laws, commands, songs, proverbs, warnings, and judgments of Scripture are all instructive and intended by God to sanctify His people¹⁷. For this reason, preaching is God's choice means for affecting sanctification in His people.¹⁸

Constitution and Bylaws

Grace Bible Church

While perfect obedience is the believer's goal¹⁹, the struggle with the sinful flesh will continue throughout his earthly existence and is never completely ended this side of heaven.²⁰ Therefore, all claims to the eradication of sin in this life are unscriptural and, therefore, untrue.²¹

¹Acts 20:32; Hebrews 10:10 ²¹1 Corinthians 1:2, 30; 6:11 ³¹1 Thessalonians 4:3-7 ⁴²2 Corinthians 3:18; 4:4 ⁵Psalms 119:67; John 17:17; Romans 6:17-22 ⁶²2 Corinthians 3:18 ⁷Matthew 7:19-23; Romans 8:12-14; 1 John 3:5-9 ⁸²2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 5:16-24; 1 Thessalonians 4:8 ⁹Psalms 119:35; Philippians 2:12-13 ¹⁰Hebrews 4:11; 12:1-2, 14; 1 Peter 1:14-16 ¹¹Ephesians 2:10 ¹²¹1 Corinthians 15:10; Titus 2:14 ¹³²1 Peter 3:18 ¹⁴²2 Corinthians 3:18 ¹⁵Romans 4:20; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Hebrews 2:1 ¹⁶Romans 1:11-15 ¹⁷Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11; 1 Timothy 1:5; 2 Timothy 3:16-17 ¹⁸²2 Timothy 3:16-4:2 ¹⁹Matthew 5:48; Ephesians 5:1; 1 Peter 1:14-16 ²⁰Colossians 3:3-4; 1 John 3:2-3 ²¹¹1 John 1:8-2:1

Regeneration

Regeneration, or the new birth, is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit whereby man, who is dead in sin, is made alive and becomes a new creature in Christ Jesus.¹ Regeneration is a work of God's grace by which the divine nature is given.² It is instantaneous and is accomplished solely by the power of the Holy Spirit through the instrumentality of the Word of God.³ As a result of the Spirit's work, the sinner repents and responds in faith to the divine provision of salvation.⁴ Genuine regeneration is manifested by fruits worthy of repentance as demonstrated in righteous attitudes and conduct.⁵ Good works will be its proper evidence and fruit.⁶

¹²2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:5 ²Titus 3:5; 2 Peter 1:4 ³John 3:3-7; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23 ⁴Ezekiel 11:19; John 1:13 ⁵Luke 3:8; Galatians 5:22-23 ⁶Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:14

Faith

Faith is a supernatural gift of God whereby He grants to his elect the power and inclination to believe in Him.¹ It is the sole means by which God declares sinners righteous apart from their own works.² The fruit of true, saving faith distinguishes it from faith in the abstract as well as false professions of faith. God-given faith takes God at His word, despite what human reason might suggest³, because the immutable faithfulness of God's character is the foundation of all He says⁴. Faith glorifies God⁵ by embracing God's true testimony concerning the person and work of His Son to save sinners⁶. It causes believers to fear God above all else⁷, to renounce earthly allegiances⁸, to obey God⁹, to refuse worldly pleasures¹⁰, and even to face persecution and death if the occasion requires it¹¹. It is by faith that the believer experiences victory in this life.¹²

¹Ephesians 2:8; Philippians 1:29 ²Genesis 15:16; Romans 3:28-4:5; Galatians 2:16; Hebrews 11:7 ³²2 Kings 7:1-2, 16-20; 1 Corinthians 1:21 ⁴Romans 4:18-21; Hebrews 6:16-18; 11:11 ⁵¹1 Corinthians 1:31-2:5 ⁶¹1 Timothy 1:14-15; 1 John 5:9-10 ⁷Matthew 10:28 ⁸Matthew 10:32-39; Philippians 3:4-9 ⁹Hebrews 11:8 ¹⁰Hebrews 11:24-26 ¹¹²1 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 11:36-39 ¹²¹John 5:4-5

Constitution and Bylaws

Grace Bible Church

Repentance

Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God.¹ Until a man repents, he is hopelessly and willingly enslaved to his own sinful folly², as well as held captive by Satan to do his will³. No one who refuses to repent will be rescued from God's coming wrath⁴ or enter the kingdom of heaven⁵. Genuine repentance commences with godly sorrow⁶, is accompanied by tangible fruit or acts of obedience⁷, and lays hold of salvation⁸. Those who do not repent will experience the condemnation of God⁹, but those who do repent, come to Christ alone for salvation and humbly submit to his lordship and instruction¹⁰. All who turn from sin to Christ for forgiveness should be baptized and unite themselves to God's church to continue those practices commensurate with repentance.¹¹

¹Isaiah 45:22 ²Proverbs 1:22-23 ³2 Timothy 2:25-26 ⁴Zephaniah 2:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 ⁵Matthew 3:2; 4:17; Acts 3:19-21
⁶James 4:9 ⁷Luke 3:8-14 ⁸2 Corinthians 7:9-11 ⁹Matthew 11:20-24 ¹⁰Matthew 11:28-30 ¹¹Acts 2:37-42

Preservation

Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit¹, will progress in sanctification² and shall persevere to the end³. Although believers may fall into sin⁴, whereby they grieve the Spirit⁵, impair their graces and comforts⁶, bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal chastisements on themselves,⁷ they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation⁸.

¹1 Corinthians 6:11 ²2 Corinthians 7:1; Hebrews 6:1-3 ³John 6:37-40; 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; Philippians 1:6 ⁴1 John 2:1 ⁵Ephesians 4:30 ⁶1 Corinthians 3:9-15 ⁷Hebrews 12:5-11 ⁸John 10:27-29; Romans 5:9-10; Hebrews 7:25; 1 Peter 1:3-5

Glorification

Glorification is the culmination of salvation¹, the completion of sanctification², and the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed when they will be separated from the presence and the power of sin forever³. The souls of believers who have died have already been perfected⁴ and are alive with Christ in heaven⁵, waiting to receive new bodies at the time of their resurrection. Those who have died "in Christ" (a designation for church-age saints) will be resurrected and glorified at the time that the church is raptured, while those believers who are alive at that time will forego death and have their bodies instantly transformed.⁶ Old Testament saints and Tribulation saints will receive their glorified bodies when Christ returns to establish his kingdom on earth.⁷

The believer's new body will be like Christ's resurrected body, and will be redesigned and adapted for heaven⁸ to the praise of God's righteousness, love, faithfulness, compassion, and power⁹.

Constitution and Bylaws

Grace Bible Church

¹Romans 8:29-30 ²1 Thessalonians 5:23 ³Philippians 3:20-21 ⁴Hebrews 12:23 ⁵Mark 12:26-27; Philippians 1:23-24 ⁶1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 ⁷Job 19:25-27; Daniel 12:2; Revelation 20:4-6 ⁸Romans 8:18-23; 1 Corinthians 15:35-49; 1 John 3:2 ⁹Psalms 17:15; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:18; Hebrews 11:39-40

The Church

All who place their faith in Jesus Christ are immediately baptized, that is, placed by the Holy Spirit into one united, spiritual body, the church,¹ of which Christ is the head.²

The formation of the church, which brought Jews and Gentiles into one body under Christ, constitutes one “new” man in Christ, a work of God that began after Christ’s ascension.³ That formation began on the Day of Pentecost⁴ and will be completed at the coming of Christ for His own at the rapture⁵.

Thus, the church is a unique, spiritual organism, distinct from Israel⁶, a mystery not revealed until this age⁷.

The establishment and continuity of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures.⁸ The members of the one scriptural body are directed to organize themselves into local assemblies whose individual members are attached to one another in devoted brotherly love⁹ while gathering regularly¹⁰ and functioning as a unified organism¹¹.

The one supreme authority for the church is Christ. The church's leadership, gifts, order, discipline, and worship are all appointed through His sovereignty as found in the Scriptures.¹² The biblically designated leadership under Christ and over the assembly are elders (also called overseers, bishops, and pastors).¹³ God’s design is that these elders be males¹⁴ and that each church be lead by a plurality of these men.¹⁵

These leaders lead or rule as servants of Christ¹⁶ and have His authority in directing the church¹⁷. The congregation is to submit to their leadership.¹⁸ These elders alone are entrusted with authority but are joined in service to the church by deacons. Both elders and deacons must be tested in order to validate their biblical qualifications.¹⁹

An importance is to be placed in the church on discipleship.²⁰ This discipleship encompasses mutual accountability within the body and discipline for sinning members of the congregation in accord with the standards of Scripture.²¹

The local church is autonomous, free from any external authority or control, with the right of self-government and freedom from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations.²² It is scriptural for true churches, under

Constitution and Bylaws

Grace Bible Church

the oversight of their elders, to cooperate with each other for the presentation and propagation of the faith.²³

The purpose of the church is to glorify God by representing His character and upholding His truth.²⁴ It accomplishes that purpose as it fulfills God's will by building itself up in love²⁵, by preaching and teaching the Word²⁶, by maintaining unity in fellowship²⁷, by keeping the ordinances²⁸, by the ministry of their individual gifts²⁹, and by advancing and communicating the gospel in the world³⁰.

It is God Who, by His Spirit, gives the church spiritual gifts to accomplish His purpose in the world.³¹ First, He gives men chosen for the purpose of equipping the saints for the work of the ministry³² and He also gives unique and special spiritual abilities to each member of the body of Christ.³³

Two kinds of gifts were given to the early church: miraculous gifts of divine revelation and healing, given temporarily in the apostolic era for the purpose of confirming the authenticity of the apostles' message³⁴; and ministering gifts, given to equip believers for edifying one another³⁵. With the New Testament revelation now complete, Scripture becomes the sole test of the authenticity of a man's message, and confirming gifts of a miraculous nature are no longer necessary to validate a man or his message.³⁶ Miraculous gifts can even be counterfeited by Satan to deceive even believers.³⁷ The only gifts in operation today are those non-revelatory equipping gifts given for edification.³⁸

No one possesses the gift of healing today, but God does hear and answer the prayers of the saints in accordance with His own perfect will for the sick, suffering, and afflicted.³⁹

¹¹ 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 ² Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23; Colossians 1:18 ³ Acts 1:8-9; Ephesians 2:14-20 ⁴ Acts 1:5; 2:37-47

⁵¹ 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 ⁶ Romans 11:13-24; 1 Corinthians 10:32 ⁷ Ephesians 3:1-6 ⁸ Acts 14:23, 27; 20:17, 28; Galatians 1:2; Philippians 1:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:1 ⁹ Acts 17:4; Roman 12:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10; Hebrews 13:1

¹⁰¹ 1 Corinthians 5:4; 11:17-18, 20, 33-34; 16:2; Hebrews 10:25 ¹¹¹ 1 Corinthians 1:10; 12:25 ¹²¹ 1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 1:22; Colossians 1:18 ¹³ Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9 ¹⁴¹ 1 Timothy 2:12-3:1 ¹⁵ Acts 14:23; 15:2; 1 Timothy 5:17; Titus 1:5; 1 Peter 5:1-2 ¹⁶¹ Peter 5:1-5 ¹⁷¹ Timothy 5:17; 1 Peter 5:2-3 ¹⁸ Hebrews 13:7, 17 ¹⁹¹ Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9 ²⁰ Matthew 28:19-20;

2 Timothy 2:2; Titus 2:3-5 ²¹ Matthew 18:15-22; Acts 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15; 1 Timothy 1:19-20; Titus 1:10-16 ²² Acts 20:28-30 ²³ Romans 15:24-26; Philippians 1:3-5; 4:15-16 ²⁴ Ephesians 3:21; 1 Timothy 3:14-16 ²⁵ Ephesians 4:13-16

²⁶² Timothy 2:2, 15; 3:16-4:2 ²⁷ John 17:20-23; Acts 2:41-47; Ephesians 4:1-6 ²⁸ Luke 22:19; Acts 2:38-42; 1 Corinthians 11:26

²⁹¹ Peter 4:10-11 ³⁰ Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8; 2:46-47 ³¹¹ 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 ³² Ephesians 4:7-12 ³³ Romans 12:5-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-31; 1 Peter 4:10-11 ³⁴ Hebrews 2:3-4; 2 Corinthians 12:12 ³⁵ Romans 12:3-8 ³⁶¹ 1 Corinthians 13:8-12 ³⁷² Corinthians 11:13-15; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-10; Revelation 13:13-14 ³⁸ Romans 12:6-8 ³⁹¹ Luke 18:1-8; John 5:7-9; 2 Corinthians 12:6-10; James 5:13-16;

1 John 5:14-15

Constitution and Bylaws

Grace Bible Church

Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Two ordinances have been given to the church: baptism¹ and the Lord's Supper². Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water³ in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.⁴ It is a physical act of obedience symbolizing the spiritual reality of the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus.⁵ Baptism is also a sign of fellowship and identification with the body of Christ.⁶ The ordinance of water baptism imparts no grace.⁷

The Lord's Supper is an act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, remember and proclaim the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.⁸ It should always be preceded by solemn self-examination.⁹ The elements of communion are only representative of the flesh and blood of Christ.¹⁰ When we properly share in communion we participate in spiritual fellowship with Jesus Christ and with other believers.¹¹ The Lord's Supper is commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself for every believer.¹²

¹Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15-16 ²Matthew 26:26-27; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:20-26 ³Matthew 3:16; Acts 8:38-39

⁴Matthew 28:19 ⁵Acts 8:36-38, 16:31-33; Romans 6:3-5 ⁶Acts 2:41-42; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:27-28 ⁷Acts 2:41, 10:47-48

⁸1 Corinthians 11:24-26 ⁹1 Corinthians 11:28-32 ¹⁰Luke 22:19-20 ¹¹1 Corinthians 10:16 ¹²Matthew 26:26-28

Angels

Holy Angels

Angels are created beings¹ and, therefore, are not to be worshiped². Although they are a higher order of creation than man³, they were created to worship God⁴ and serve Him⁵. This service includes aiding those who will eventually inherit God's salvation when His kingdom comes.⁶

Fallen Angels

Satan is a created angel and the first sinner.⁷ He incurred the judgment of God by rebelling against his Creator⁸, and by introducing sin into the human race by his temptation of Eve⁹. He is the leader of the angels which he carried with him in his fall.¹⁰

Satan is the open and declared enemy of God¹¹ and man.¹² He is the ruler of this world¹³ who will be defeated and subdued by God and His people¹⁴, and eternally punished in the lake of fire¹⁵.

¹Psalms 148:2,5; Colossians 1:16 ²Colossians 2:18-19; Revelation 19:10; 22:8-9 ³Hebrews 2:6-7 ⁴Nehemiah 9:6; Hebrews 1:6

Constitution and Bylaws

Grace Bible Church

⁵Psalm 103:20-21; Matthew 13:39-42 ⁶Hebrews 1:14 ⁷Genesis 3:1, 4; John 8:44; 1 John 3:8 ⁸Isaiah 14:12-17 ⁹Genesis 3:1-15; Revelation 20:2 ¹⁰Matthew 25:41; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6 ¹¹Isaiah 14:13-14 ¹²Revelation 12:9-10 ¹³John 12:31; John 14:30; John 16:11 ¹⁴Romans 16:20; Revelation 20:2-3 ¹⁵Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10

Evangelism and Missions

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to participate in making disciples of all nations¹ and to pray for others to join the effort². At the heart of all fruitful evangelism or missionary efforts are workers whose regenerate lives shine forth the light of the gospel into a perverse world.³ It is the duty of every child of God to make the most of every opportunity to share the gospel of Christ.⁴

The primary motivation and ultimate end of all missionary activity is the glory of God⁵. The goal of missions is to secure worshipers for God who acknowledge the greatness of God's undeserved kindness toward them in Jesus Christ⁶.

The proclamation of the gospel is the sole means by which men might become true worshipers of God. Therefore, the articulation of the good news of the gospel is indispensable to and the distinguishing feature of every missionary endeavor⁷. Ameliorating human suffering and pursuing human welfare and flourishing can be noble means by which Christians please God, the good result of God-given burdens placed on the hearts of His people⁸. However, these activities are not the unique mission of the church⁹ and, therefore, should not be subsumed under the title 'missions' in the biblical sense.

God has entrusted no group, organization, or body of people with the responsibility of representing Him and upholding His truth except the church, thus making the church God's choice steward of the gospel message and, therefore, all missionary activity¹⁰. To ensure the church's success in its mission, members are indwelt by God's Holy Spirit¹¹ who endows them with various spiritual gifts¹² for this purpose. Jesus' abiding personal presence also ensures the church's success¹³.

¹Matthew 28:18-20; John 20:21; Titus 3:12-14 ²Matthew 9:37-38 ³Matthew 5:16; 2 Corinthians 4:1-6; Philippians 2:15 ⁴Romans 10:14-15; Colossians 4:5-6; 1 Peter 2:9-10, 3:15 ⁵Romans 11:36; 15:9 ⁶Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14; 2:7 ⁷Romans 10:14-15 ⁸Ruth 2:4-18; Proverbs 14:31; 19:17; 22:9; 31:8-9; Acts 3:1-7 ⁹Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 16:9-10 ¹⁰Acts 13:1-3; 1 Timothy 3:15 ¹¹Romans 9:9 ¹²Acts 2:4; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 ¹³Matthew 28:20; Acts 18:9-10

Constitution and Bylaws

Grace Bible Church

Stewardship

God is the source of all temporal and spiritual blessings. He is the Creator and rightful Owner of all that we have and all that we are.¹ Christians should recognize that their time, talents, and material possessions have been entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others.² According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means willingly, cheerfully³, systematically⁴, proportionately⁵, and bountifully⁶ for the advancement of the gospel on earth⁷. This kind of stewardship is a sign of God's grace at work in His people⁸.

¹Deuteronomy 8:18; 1 Chronicles 29:12; Psalm 24:1; 50:10-12 ²Matthew 25:14-40; 1 Timothy 6:17-19 ³2 Corinthians 9:7 ⁴1 Corinthians 16:2-4 ⁵2 Corinthians 8:11-12 ⁶2 Corinthians 9:6 ⁷Philippians 4:10-19 ⁸2 Corinthians 8:1-5

Gender, Marriage, and Family

God created Adam and Eve, the first human beings, in his own image, equal before God as persons, and distinct in gender as male and female.¹ As those who bear the image of God, both men and women have dignity and value as human beings and should be treated as such. Gender distinctions between male and female reflect God's original creation design and are meant for human good and human flourishing. The genetic differences between male and female, which result in different reproductive structures evident at birth², are integral to God's design for self-conception as male or female. Therefore, self-conception as male or female should be defined by God's holy purposes in creation and redemption as revealed in Scripture.

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society.³ It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption. Marriage is a sacred bond between a man and a woman, instituted by and publicly entered into before God in which they unite themselves to one another in covenant commitment for a lifetime.⁴ Marriage is the gracious gift of God through which He provides a man and his wife with intimate companionship⁵, sexual pleasure⁶, and (usually) the blessing of children.⁷ Sin distorts sexual desires by directing them away from the marriage covenant and toward sexual immorality— a distortion that includes both heterosexual and homosexual immorality as well as other forms of sexual perversion.⁸ Therefore, it is sinful to approve, support, or commend polyamory of any kind, homosexual immorality, or transgenderism. Approval, support, or commendation for such desires and/or practices constitute an essential departure from Christian faithfulness and witness⁹.

The marriage relationship reflects aspects of Christ's relationship with the church.¹⁰ Wives, in the fear of Christ, are to voluntarily and thoughtfully submit themselves to their own husbands in everything.¹¹ Their submission to their husbands

Constitution and Bylaws

Grace Bible Church

ought to reflect something of their own submission to the Lord as well as the church's submission to Christ¹², and is a manifestation of being filled with the Spirit¹³ as well as respect for her husband whom God has made the head of the wife¹⁴. Before God, the wife possesses spiritual equality with her husband and is his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.¹⁵

As the God-appointed head of his wife, the husband ought to lead his home in such a way that embodies every other Christian virtue commended by God in Scripture, including humility, gentleness, patience, and forbearance¹⁶, as well as wisdom¹⁷, tender-heartedness¹⁸, courage¹⁹, and dignity²⁰. In all his provision, protection, and leadership, love is to be the defining quality by which the husband relates to his wife, thus reflecting his care for himself and the unique care Christ extends to the church²¹.

Children, from the moment of conception²², are a blessing and heritage from the Lord.²³ Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage.²⁴ Parents are to teach their children, instructing with words²⁵, by way of example²⁶, and through loving discipline²⁷, to be governed by the fear of God based on biblical truth²⁸. Children are to honor and obey their parents.²⁹

¹Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25 ²Genesis 35:16-17; Exodus 1:15-17 ³Genesis 2:18-25; Proverbs 18:22 ⁴Genesis 2:21-25; Matthew 19:3-6
⁵Genesis 2:18; Proverbs 2:17; 1 Peter 3:7 ⁶Proverbs 5:15-19; Song of Songs 2:3-7 ⁷Genesis 4:1; Psalm 127:3-5; Hebrews 13:4
⁸Exodus 20:14, 17; Leviticus 18:6-23; 20:10-21; Deuteronomy 5:18, 21; 22:5 ⁹Romans 1:32; 1 Corinthians 5:1-3 ¹⁰Ephesians 5:23-25, 28-29 ¹¹Ephesians 5:21-24 ¹²Ephesians 5:22, 24 ¹³Ephesians 5:18-22 ¹⁴Ephesians 5:23, 33 ¹⁵Genesis 2:20; Psalms 128:3; Proverbs 31:10-31; Titus 2:3-5 ¹⁶Ephesians 4:1-2; 1 Peter 3:8-9 ¹⁷1 Peter 3:7 ¹⁸Ephesians 4:31-32 ¹⁹Joshua 1:7-9; 1 Corinthians 16:13 ²⁰1 Timothy 3:4 ²¹Ephesians 5:25-33 ²²Psalm 139:13-16 ²³Psalm 127:3-5 ²⁴Ephesians 5:22-6:1; Colossians 3:18-21 ²⁵Proverbs 6:20-23 ²⁶Proverbs 23:26; Philippians 4:9 ²⁷Proverbs 13:24; 22:15; 29:17, 19; Ephesians 6:4; Hebrews 12:7-8 ²⁸Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Psalm 78:1-8; Proverbs 1:7; 2:1-6, 9-10 ²⁹Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16; Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20

Last Things

Death

Physical death involves no loss of our immaterial consciousness.¹ At death, the soul of the redeemed passes immediately into the presence of Christ², but the soul of the unredeemed passes immediately into Hades³.

The bodies of all who have died will be physically resurrected, either unto everlasting life or unto everlasting punishment.⁴ Two separate events contain a resurrection of God's saints: the first, when Christ comes to rescue His church, including those who have died in Christ, before the Day of the Lord⁵; the second, when Christ comes to establish His kingdom, will involve Old Testament believers and Tribulation saints⁶. The unsaved will be resurrected to appear at the Great White

Constitution and Bylaws

Grace Bible Church

Throne for judgment and everlasting punishment, at which time they will be cast into the lake of fire.⁷

¹Luke 16:22; Revelation 6:9-11 ²Luke 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23 ³Matthew 11:23; Luke 16:19-23 ⁴Daniel 12:2; John 5:28-29 ⁵1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:10 ⁶Mark 12:26-27; Revelation 20:4-6 ⁷Revelation 20:11-15

The Rapture of the Church

Before the Day of the Lord¹, the beginning of which is the seven-year tribulation², our Lord Jesus Christ will come personally and bodily to rescue His church from the wrath that He will unleash upon the earth³. Between this event and His glorious return to establish His earthly kingdom, Christ will reward believers according to their works.⁵

¹Zephaniah 2:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2 ²Revelation 3:10, 4:10-5:2 ³Zephaniah 1:2-18; John 14:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-5:4, 9 ⁴1 Corinthians 15:51-53; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 ⁵1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10

The Tribulation Period

The Tribulation is the period explained to Daniel by Gabriel as the seventieth week in the ancient prophecy¹ and the first phase of the Day of the Lord². Following the removal of the church from the earth³ the righteous judgments of God will be poured out upon the entire unbelieving world.⁴ These judgments will climax in the return of Christ to the earth in glory to destroy the antichrist and the false prophet and the armies of the earth gathered together to make war with Him.⁵ After Christ destroys His enemies, Satan is also bound and thrown into the abyss for 1,000 years.⁶

¹Daniel 9:24-27; Matthew 24:15-21 ²Zephaniah 1:14-18 ³1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 ⁴Zephaniah 1:2-3; 3:8; Haggai 2:6; 3:21-22; Daniel 9:27; 12:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12; Revelation 3:10; 5:1-16:21 ⁵Matthew 24:27-31; Revelation 19:11-21 ⁶Revelation 20:1-3

The Second Coming and the Millennial Reign

After His Tribulation judgments are complete¹, Christ will come to earth to remove the wicked², to occupy the throne of David³, to restore the kingdom to Israel⁴, and to reign as King and serve as Priest from a rebuilt temple on Zion for a thousand years⁵. At this time the Old Testament and Tribulation saints will be resurrected to reign with Christ⁶ alongside the church-age saints who were previously resurrected and raptured⁷.

The kingdom itself will be the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel to restore them to the land⁸ which they forfeited through their disobedience⁹. The result of their unbelief and disobedience was that Israel was temporarily set aside¹⁰ but will again be awakened through repentance to enter into the land of blessing¹¹.

Constitution and Bylaws

Grace Bible Church

This time of our Lord's reign will be characterized by harmony, justice, peace, righteousness, long life, and true worship¹². His reign will never end; however, the universal peace will be briefly interrupted when God releases Satan from the abyss¹³.

¹²Zephaniah 3:15; Revelation 16:17 ²Zechariah 14:2; Matthew 25:31, 41-46 ³²Samuel 7:12-13, 16; Psalm 24:7-10; 110:1-7; Matthew 25:31; Luke 1:31-33; Acts 2:29-31 ⁴Obadiah 1:19-21; Zephaniah 3:16, 20; Acts 1:6 ⁵Psalm 2:4-6; 22:25-31; Haggai 2:7-9; Zechariah 6:9-15; 14:9; Revelation 20:1-7 ⁶Revelation 20:4-6 ⁷Revelation 5:10 ⁸Isaiah 65:17-25; Ezekiel 37:21-28; Zechariah 8:1-17 ⁹Deuteronomy 28:15-68 ¹⁰Matthew 8:10-12; 21:43; Romans 11:1-26 ¹¹Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:22-32; Romans 11:25-29 ¹²Psalm 22:26-29; Isaiah 11:1-16; 65:17-25; Ezekiel 36:33-38; Amos 9:11-13; Zephaniah 2:6-7, 11; 3:9-20; Romans 14:17; Zechariah 8:4 ¹³Revelation 20:2-3, 7-10

The Judgment of the Lost

Following the release of Satan after the thousand year reign of Christ¹, Satan will deceive the nations of the earth and gather them to battle against the saints and the beloved city², at which time Satan and his army will be devoured by fire from heaven³. Following this, Satan will be thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone⁴ whereupon Christ, who is the judge of all men⁵, will resurrect and judge the unsaved dead, both great and small, at the great white throne judgment.⁶

This resurrection of the unsaved dead to judgment will be a physical resurrection, whereupon receiving their judgment, they will be committed to an eternal, conscious punishment in the lake of fire.⁷

¹Revelation 20:7 ²Revelation 20:8 ³Revelation 20:9 ⁴Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10 ⁵John 5:22 ⁶Revelation 20:11-13 ⁷Matthew 25:41, 46; Revelation 14:11; 20:14-15

Eternity

After the closing of the Millennium, the temporary release of Satan, and the judgment of unbelievers¹, the saved will enter the eternal state of glory with God, after which, the elements of this earth are to be dissolved² and replaced with a new earth wherein only righteousness dwells³. Following this, the heavenly city will come down out of heaven⁴ and will be the dwelling place of the saints⁵, where they will enjoy forever fellowship with God and one another⁶. Our Lord Jesus Christ, having fulfilled His redemptive mission, will then deliver up the kingdom to God the Father⁷, that in all spheres the triune God may reign forever and ever⁸.

¹²Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 20:7-15 ²²Peter 3:10; Hebrews 1:10-12; Revelation 21:1 ³Revelation 21:1-22:5 ⁴Revelation 21:2 ⁵John 14:2-3 ⁶John 17:3; Revelation 21:3-4; 22:3-5 ⁷¹Corinthians 15:24-28 ⁸¹Corinthians 15:28