

# STARKEY ROAD

## BAPTIST CHURCH

### What We Believe

#### **The Bible:**

We believe that the Holy Bible is the Word of God and that as originally written it was verbally and plenary inspired, being the product of Spirit-controlled holy men of God. It is, therefore, truth without error, and as the inerrant Word of God, is our only infallible authority in all matters of faith and practice. The Bible is the supreme revelation of the will of God for men, and as such, has been preserved through faithful translations in many languages, assuring us that we can have absolute confidence in the Word of God (Isa. 40:8; I Cor. 2:12-13; II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:19-21).

#### **God:**

##### **The True God:**

We believe that there is only one living and true God, Who is the eternal, self-existing Creator, Sustainer, and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth, an infinite Spirit of absolute holiness, worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love (Deut. 6:4; Isa. 43:10-11; 44:6, 8; 45:5-6, 18, 21-22; 46:9; Jer. 10:10; John 17:3; I Cor. 8:4-6).

##### **The Tri-Unity:**

We believe that God eternally exists as three persons in one (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) and that the three are equal in every divine perfection, executing distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption (Matt. 3:16-17, 28:19; John 14:16; 15:26; II Cor. 13:14; Rev. 1:4-6).

## Jesus Christ:

### **The Person of Christ:**

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary as no other man has ever been or can be, that as God manifest in the flesh He lived a sinless life, and that prior to His human existence He has always existed as the eternal Son of God. As the perfect God-man He now exists in undiminished deity and perfect humanity, united forever in one person (Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-35; John 1:1, 14; Phil. 2:5-11).

### **The Work of Christ:**

We believe the coming of Jesus Christ to earth was for the purpose of providing redemption for lost mankind through His sacrificial death and that His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins, sufficient for everyone, but effectual only for those who respond in faith. Upon His bodily resurrection from death He ascended into heaven where He now sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest, interceding for believers until the time when He will come again to reign forever (Isa. 53:4-6; Gal. 4:4-5; I Tim. 1:15; Heb. 4:14-16; 7:25).

## Holy Spirit:

### **The Person of the Holy Spirit:**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is deity possessing all the characteristics of personality (intellect, emotion, and will) and is not merely a force, influence, or power (Acts 16:6-7; Rom. 8:27; 15:30; I Cor. 2:10-11, 13; 12:11; Eph. 4:30). He is equal with God the Father and God the Son and is of the same nature (Matt. 28:19; Acts 5:3-4; Rom. 8:9; II Cor. 13:14).

### **The Work of the Holy Spirit:**

We believe that the Holy Spirit was active in creation, in the lives of select people during Old Testament days, and in Jesus Christ during His lifetime on earth. Today He performs several specific ministries on earth, including convicting of sin, restraining evil, and regenerating, indwelling, anointing, baptizing, sealing, filling, and gifting believers. He is the agent of the new birth, bringing people to salvation through understanding of their need as portrayed in the Word of God, after which He helps them to further understand God's Word by illuminating that Word (Gen. 1:2; Num. 24:2;

John 3:3-8; 16:8-14; I Cor. 6:19; 12:13; Eph. 1:13; 4:30; 5:18; II Thess. 2:6-8; Titus 3:5; I John 2:20, 27).

### **The Gifts of the Holy Spirit:**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the agent through whom each believer receives at least one spiritual gift, and that these gifts are given to be used for the edification of other believers. We also believe that the Bible disavows the authenticity of the sign gifts such as prophecy, speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues, miracles, and healing for today and repudiates the experience-oriented theology and ecumenically-oriented practice of the charismatic movement (Rom. 12:3-8; I Cor. 12:4-11, 28-30; 13:8-12; Eph. 4:11-13; I Pet. 4:10-11).

## **Angels:**

### **Holy Angels:**

We believe that the angels are created beings, with each angel being a direct creation of God. They are by nature spirit beings possessing all the characteristics of personality (intellect, emotion, and will) and are superior to man in power. Their purposes of existence are to praise and glorify God, to serve as ministering spirits on behalf of believers, and to serve God in whatever ways He desires (Ps. 103:20-21; 148:2; Matt. 22:28-30; Luke 20:36; Col. 1:16; Heb. 1:13-14; II Pet. 2:11).

### **Demons:**

We believe that demons are fallen angels who followed Satan in his rebellion against God, that they are unclean and deceiving spirits, and that they continue to serve Satan in carrying out his evil purposes. Their ultimate destiny is the lake of fire (Matt. 10:1; 12:24; 25:41; Luke 4:36; Acts 5:16; 8:7; I Tim. 4:1; Rev. 12:9).

### **Satan:**

We believe that Satan is a created angelic being, originally in a state of perfection and in the highest position of leadership in the angelic world. He is now fallen, due to his pride and desire to replace God, and is the ruler of all fallen angels of the present world system and of the atmosphere surrounding earth. He deceives nations, blinds the minds of unbelievers, opposes and endeavors to destroy believers, and continually seeks to frustrate the purposes of God. He was defeated at the cross and will ultimately be cast into the lake of fire (Isa. 14:12-15; Ez. 28:12-19; Matt.

25:41; John 14:30; 16:11; II Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2; I Pet. 5:8; I John 3:8; 5:19; Rev. 20:3, 10).

## Man:

### **The Creation of Man:**

We believe that God created the heavens and the earth as stated in Genesis, which is a literal, historical account of the direct, immediate creative acts of God without any evolutionary process. Man is the crowning achievement of creation, also the result of a direct creative act, made in the image of God. All men are descended from the historical Adam and Eve, the first parents of the entire human race (Gen. 1:26-27; 2:7; 5:1-2; Ex. 20:11; John 1:3; Col. 1:16).

### **The Fall of Man:**

We believe that man was created innocent and free from sin, but that when he was tested in the garden of Eden he voluntarily disobeyed the revealed will of God and became a sinful being. Because the entire human race was in Adam, all sinned and are partakers of the fallen nature, totally depraved and under the just condemnation of God (Gen. 3:1-7; Ps. 14:1-3; Rom. 3:9-18; 5:12; 7:18; Eph. 2:1-3).

### **The Destinies of Man:**

We believe that when man sinned he lost his spiritual life and became dead in trespasses and sin, but that he is redeemable. The final destiny of each person is thus determined by whether or not he is redeemed, with those not redeemed spending eternity in the lake of fire (Matt. 25:41, 46; John 3:5, 18; Rom. 6:23; 8:10; Rev. 20:11-15; 21:8), and those redeemed spending eternity in heaven (Matt. 25:46; John 3:15-16; Heb. 12:22-23; II Pet. 1:10-11).

## Sin:

We believe that sin is anything that is opposed to holiness and everything that is contrary to the character and will of God and that, though not all sin is of the same degree, all sin is sin because of its character. Because of Adam's sin and the resulting depravity of all mankind, no one has merit before God or capacity for achieving any merit in his state of separation from God. Every person, therefore, automatically stands guilty before God, with the penalty being eternal separation from God, and the only hope

being regeneration provided by God Himself. Each person is also accountable for personal sins that he commits, for which there is forgiveness and for which there is possible victory through the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. Though such personal sins will cause loss of fellowship with God, they will not cause loss of salvation, for all who are truly born again are kept by the Father for His Son, Jesus Christ (Isa. 59:2; 64:6; John 6:44; 10:27-30; Rom. 3:10-12; 5:12-21; 8:31-39; I Cor. 2:14; Gal. 3:22; Eph. 2:8-9; 4:18-19; I John 1:6-10).

## Salvation:

### **The Provision for Salvation:**

We believe that the salvation of sinners is entirely a work of God and wholly of grace, accomplished through the sacrificial death of the Son of God and by personal faith in Him as the only means of salvation. The death of Christ, in which He shed His blood for us, fully satisfied the just demands of a holy, righteous God for the payment of sin; and since Christ was a voluntary substitute in the sinner's place, the Just for the unjust, faith in Him becomes the only condition for salvation (John 3:16, 36; 14:6; Acts 4:12; Rom. 3:21-28; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-9; I Pet. 2:21-24).

### **The Results of Salvation:**

We believe that when any person places his faith in Christ and His completed work on the cross, he is born into the family of God, delivered from condemnation to justification, receives divine life, becomes separated from the world unto God, and is reconciled to God (I Cor. 1:2; II Cor. 5:17, 21; Gal. 3:13; Eph. 2:4-7; Col. 1:13-14, 20-21; Titus 3:5).

We believe that justification is the judicial act of God whereby He pardons sin and declares the person righteous on the basis of the imputed righteousness of Christ. It is accompanied by sanctification, which is the work of God in setting apart the believer unto Himself. This is accomplished in a threefold manner: positionally – each believer is established in a position of holiness at the moment he trusts Christ as Savior; progressively – each believer enters a process of continued spiritual growth throughout his lifetime as the Holy Spirit applies the Word of God to his life; and ultimately – each believer will be freed from the presence of sin at the return of the Lord (Rom. 5:1-11; II Cor. 7:1; Titus 2:11-13; Heb. 10:10, 14; II Pet. 3:18; I John 3:1-2).

## The Church:

### **The Invisible Church:**

We believe that the invisible church is an organism composed of all saved people from the time of Pentecost to the rapture, that it is a New Testament institution unknown to the Old Testament prophets, and that it is separate and distinct from Israel, composed of both Jews and Gentiles. Believers become part of this institution through the baptism of the Holy Spirit, whereby He places them into the body of Christ at the moment of salvation (Rom. 6:1-10; I Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27; Eph. 1:22-23; 2:10-17; 3:3-6; Col. 1:18, 24-26).

### **The Local Church:**

We believe that the invisible church is manifested through the local church, which is an organized assembly of baptized believers who meet together regularly for purposes which include prayer, Bible study, fellowship, and observance of the two church ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper. The ministry of the local church is to be carried out under the leadership of men filling the two offices of pastor and deacon, with the entire operation of the church being under the direct headship of Christ and apart from any other human hierarchy. Members are to be born again and baptized by immersion (Matt. 28:19-20; John 3:3-8, 16-18, 36; Acts 2:41, 47; 8:12, 36-39; 9:18; I Cor. 11:23-26; Phil. 1:1; I Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; I Pet. 5:1-4).

## Future Events:

### **The Rapture:**

We believe in the imminent, pretribulational, premillennial return of Christ for His church, at which time the dead in Christ will be raised with glorified bodies, the living in Christ will be given glorified bodies without tasting death, and all will be caught up together to meet Christ in the air. They will then appear before the judgment seat of Christ to be judged regarding their service and works, and will be rewarded accordingly (Rom. 14:10-12; I Cor. 3:11-15; 15:51-58; II Cor. 5:10; I Thess. 4:13-18; I John 3:1-3).

### **The Tribulation:**

We believe the rapture will be followed by a seven-year period of time during which God will pour out His wrath upon the unbelieving world. During this time the Antichrist will be revealed and empowered by Satan

and will endeavor to take the place of God in ruling the world. He will be destroyed at the battle of Armageddon when Christ returns to earth (Dan. 9:24-27; 11:36-45; II Thess. 2:3-12; Rev. 13:10; 19:11-20).

### **The Millennial Kingdom:**

We believe the Tribulation will be terminated by Christ's second coming, at which time He will cast the Antichrist and false prophet into the lake of fire, bind Satan and cast him into the bottomless pit for a thousand years, judge both Jews and Gentiles, and inaugurate a one-thousand-year kingdom on earth, over which He will personally reign. During this time God will fulfill for Israel the conditions of the Abrahamic, Davidic, Palestinian, and New Covenants, and all the world will enjoy peace, equity, justice, and prosperity as they obey Christ (Gen. 12:1-3; 13:14-16; 15:18-21; II Sam. 7:10-16; Jer. 31:31-34 Ez. 20:33-44; 34:11-22; 36:24-30; Joel 3:1-3; Matt. 24:27-30, 36-44; 25:1-46; Luke 21:34-36; Rev. 19:11-21; 20:4-5).

### **Eternity:**

We believe Satan will be released at the end of the millennium, that he will gather the armies of the nations against Christ and His saints, and that he will then be cast into the lake of fire forever. All the unbelieving dead will then be raised to stand before the Great White Throne and be sentenced to their eternal punishment forever. Believers will forever enjoy the blessedness of God's presence after He has brought into existence the new heaven and the new earth, where Christ will be King of Kings and Lord of Lords (II Pet. 3:13; Rev. 20:7-15; 21:1-8, 22-27; 22:1-5).