

**Doctrinal Statement  
of  
Mark Boyd, M.A.**

*“That we should be  
to the praise of his glory . . .”*

Ephesians 1:12

**Prepared for Ordination Council  
at  
Fellowship Baptist Church  
Des Moines, Iowa  
November 22, 2008**

## Index

Bibliology .....	3
Theology Proper .....	5
Christology .....	7
Pneumatology .....	9
Angelology .....	11
Anthropology .....	13
Hamartiology .....	14
Soteriology .....	15
Ecclesiology .....	17
Eschatology .....	21
Notes .....	23

## **Bibliology**

### **Inspiration**

I believe God prepared men to write the Scriptures (Eph. 1:4,11-12; 1 Peter 1:20; Jeremiah 1:5). Therefore, the Bible is God's Word. God used God-fearing men to write down the specific words that He wanted them to write (verbal inspiration), and therefore all words of the Bible are completely true (inerrant) in the original manuscripts. I therefore believe in verbal and plenary inspiration of the Bible (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

### **Revelation**

I believe that God has revealed Himself to us, about Himself and about His truths, in many different ways. God initiates the revelation because we have a fallen nature and a sinful nature. He makes Himself known to us at our own level of understanding.

**General Revelation** is revelation which we all have access to, such as creation. In creation we see God's handiwork (Psalm 19:1). There is evidence of a creator who has masterfully designed and put together this world. We are held responsible for this revelation in our conscience to choose right or wrong (Romans 2:15).

**Special Revelation** is where God uses specific people or events to communicate His message to the people of that age. God has used prophets, dreams, visions, angels, Christ and the Bible (John 20:31). I believe that the special revelation of prophets, dreams, and visions has ceased.

### **Illumination**

I believe that the Holy Spirit guides and directs saved men and women to understand and apply the Scriptures to their lives (John 16:12-15; 1 John 2:27; 1 Cor. 2:10).

### **Interpretation**

I believe every believer can interpret the Scriptures

for himself, but it must be done with a literal, natural, contextual, grammatical, historical, and exegetical hermeneutic. This is the only way we can correlate the significance or meaning of a certain passage with the rest of the Bible (1 Cor. 2:14). The Bible is sufficient to every area of our lives, and the Bible is complete for all our needs (2 Tim. 3:15-17).

### **Preservation**

I believe that God has preserved the Scriptures so we have an accurate copy of the Scriptures today (Psalm 119:89; Jeremiah 36:22-24, 28). There are differences in translations and difficult passages, but they all can be explained.

## **Theology Proper**

### **The Unity of God**

I believe that there is only one God. He is a spirit (Isaiah 44:6; 45:5; Luke 24:39; John 1:18; Exodus 33:20). Scripture uses human language to describe God (1 Kings 8:42; Job 34:21; Isaiah 59:1-2).

### **Trinity**

I believe that God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are one, yet separate. There is no difference in position, only in function (Isaiah 42:1; Isaiah 61:1; Genesis 1:26; Exodus 3:1-6; Matthew 28:19-20; Matthew 3:16-17; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 Cor. 12:4-6; John 14:16; 1 John 4:13-14).

### **Attributes of God**

I believe that God's attributes are the nature of His character. I believe that God is all of these at the same time, all of the time. Some of his attributes include Incomprehensible, Spiritual, Immutable, Eternal, Omnipresent, Omniscient, Omnipotent, Holiness, Righteousness, Justice, Goodness, Love, Wrath, Grace, Mercy, Long-suffering, Truthfulness, and Faithfulness (Hebrews 13:8; Psalm 90:2; 1 Kings 8:27; Psalm 147:5; Matthew 19:26; Isaiah 6:1-5; Psalm 145:3,17; 119:68; 103:8; 1 John 4:8; Romans 1:18; 1 Peter 5:10; Romans 15:5; John 17:3; Lamentations 3:3).

### **The Decree of God**

I believe that the decree of God is God's will from eternity past. God has decreed from before creation what He wants to happen and what He wills (Eph. 1:11).

### **Creation of the World**

I believe that God created the world in six literal, consecutive 24 hour days. I believe in the creation account as found in Genesis 1-2 (Fiat Creationism).

## **God's Sovereignty**

I believe that God is in control of everything (1 Chron. 29:11; Psalm 115:3; 135:6), that He keeps everything in existence, and that He maintains the universe (Job 12:10; Col. 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:3; Nehemiah 9:6) all for His purpose and glory (Daniel 4:35; Psalm 147:16-18; 139:16; Matthew 6:26-31; Acts 17:26; Genesis 50:20).

## **Dispensations**

I believe that dispensations are stewardships of the outworking of God's progressive purpose, whereby mankind is tested by God for their obedience to some specific revelation.

## **Covenants**

I believe that there is a clear distinction between Israel and the Church. All of the covenants will be fulfilled in the Kingdom. They are the Noahic Covenant (Genesis 9:8-17), Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12:1-3; 15:18; 17:1-19), Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 19:1-8), Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7:10-16), and the New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-40).

## **Patrology**

I believe that God the Father still has a ministry for us as believers today. He provides for us (James 1:17; Matthew 6:26; 7:9-11), He disciplines us (Hebrews 12:5-8), He answers our prayers (Romans 8:15-16), and He is a role model for us (Matthew 5:48). He is the father of believers by new birth and adoption (Galatians 3:26; John 1:12).

## **Christology**

### **The Deity of Christ**

I believe that Jesus Christ has always been and always will be (Hebrews 13:8). He was before creation, took part in creation, and sustains it (Col. 1:15-16). He fulfilled prophecy concerning the coming Messiah (Micah 5:2; Isaiah 53).

I believe that Jesus is one of the three eternal co-equal persons of the trinity (John 1:1,14; 20:28; Matthew 16:16-17; Rev. 22; Luke 24:52).

### **The Angel of The Lord**

I believe that in the Old Testament Jesus appeared to several men. We call these theophanies. (Exodus 3:2-6; Judges 6:12-14; Genesis 16:7-13; Genesis 22:11-19; Genesis 31:11-13; Judges 2:1).

### **The Humanity of Christ**

I believe that Christ was fully God but also fully man (John 1:14; 1 Tim. 3:16). Mary gave birth to Jesus Christ after the virgin conception (Matthew 1:16-23; Luke 1:34-35). Therefore He remained sinless (Hebrews 4:15; James 1:13; 1 Peter 2:22), being unable to sin because of His deity (2 Cor. 5:21; 1 John 3:5).

### **The Kenosis**

I believe that Jesus emptied Himself to become human (incarnation) by voluntarily giving up the use of some of his attributes some of the time (Philippians 2:7). He was fully man since He had human emotions (John 11:35). He was hungry (Luke 4:2), thirsty (John 19:28), became tired (John 4:6), and experienced death (Hebrews 2:9).

### **The Substitutionary Atonement**

I believe that Jesus is the atonement for our sins because of His death on the cross. Jesus loved us so much that He became sin for us so that we could spend eternity

with Him (Isaiah 53:3-5; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; 1 Cor. 15:3; Romans 8:9). Because of Jesus' death and atonement, God's justice and wrath toward man was satisfied (Romans 3:25; 1 John 2:2; 1 John 4:10; Hebrews 2:17).

### **His Resurrection**

I believe Jesus Christ died voluntarily on the cross for our sins. He gave up His life as a sacrifice (John 3:16). There are several reasons for His death and resurrection: It proves His character (Romans 1:4), finishes His work of salvation (Romans 4:23-25), guarantees our future resurrection (Acts 17:31; 2 Cor. 4:14), allows Christ to be the new Adam (1 Cor. 15:22; Rom. 5:11), and His death and resurrection defeats His enemies (Acts 2:22-24; 1 Cor. 15).

### **His Ascension**

I believe that after Jesus' resurrection, He appeared to many people as evidence of His resurrection. He ascended into heaven after forty days here on earth (Acts 1:9) to be exalted at the right hand of God (Philippians 2:8-11). His ascension showed that this was the end of His earthly ministry and guaranteed His second coming (Acts 1:1-11). It also allowed the Son to send the Holy Spirit to us (John 16:7; Eph. 4:7-13), while He remains at the right hand of God (Philippians 2:8-11).

### **His Current Ministries**

I believe that Jesus is now interceding for us (Hebrews 7:25), building a place for us (John 14:1-3), sustaining creation (Col. 1:15-17), sympathetic to our needs (Hebrews 4:15), and our advocate before the Father (1 John 2:1, 2).

## **Pneumatology**

### **Holy Spirit is God**

I believe the Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity (Acts 5:3-4; Hebrews 9:14; 1 Cor. 2:10-11; Job 33:4).

### **Personality of the Holy Spirit**

I believe that the Holy Spirit is a person, because He has emotions (Eph. 4:30), can be insulted or lied to (Acts 5:3; Hebrews 10:29), can be quenched (1 Thess. 5:19), has intellect (1 Cor. 2:10-11; Romans 8:27), and has a will or self-determination (1 Cor. 12:11).

### **The work of the Holy Spirit in the World**

I believe that the Holy Spirit was involved in the creation of the world (Genesis 1:2; Psalm 104:29-30), restrains sin in our present world (Genesis 6:3), anointed Old Testament saints for ministries (1 Samuel 16:13-14), ministered to Christ (Luke 4:18; 1:35; Romans 8:11; Acts 10:38), and was involved in the inspiration of the Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

### **The work of the Holy Spirit in the Believer**

I believe that the Holy Spirit works in the lives of the believers by illuminating them (1 Cor. 2:12-14; 1 John 2:27), sanctifying them (Galatians 3:3; 1 Cor. 1:2), guiding them (Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:17-18), producing fruit in their lives (Galatians 5:22-23), assisting them in prayer (Romans 8:26-27), empowering them (Acts 4:31; 5:32), and filling them (Eph. 5:18-20, Col. 3:16).

### **The work of the Holy Spirit in the Church**

I believe that the Holy Spirit started the church (Acts 2), unites the church (Eph. 2:19-22), empowers the Church (Acts 1:8), and guides the church (Acts 15:28).

### **The work of the Holy Spirit in Salvation**

I believe that the Holy Spirit plays a crucial role in

salvation by sealing us (Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30), baptizing us into the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13), by regenerating us (Titus 3:5-6; John 3:3-6), convicting us of sin (John 16:8), and being the earnest of our salvation (2 Cor. 1:22).

### **Spiritual Gifts**

I believe that the Holy Spirit gives certain abilities to men and women, enabling them to minister in the church and to glorify God (1 Cor. 12:8-10; 28-30; Romans 12:6-8; Eph. 4:11; 1 Peter 4:10-11).

# **Angelology**

## **Angels**

I believe that angels are messengers from God (Luke 1:11-20). They are powerful, personal spirit beings directly created by God. There is a multitude of them. They are created but not mortal (Luke 20:36). They are powerful but not omnipotent (Psalm 103:20). They are knowledgeable but not omniscient (1 Peter 1:12).

## **Creation of Angels**

I believe God created angels at creation (Job 38:4-7; Exodus 20:11; Col. 1:16-17). God created several different ranks of angels. The first is cherubim, which means to cover or to guard (Exodus 37:8-9; Genesis 3:24; Ezekiel 10:1-22; 41:18-20; Psalm 99:1). The second is the seraphim. Their name means “fiery ones” (Isaiah 6:1-9; Rev. 4:6-9). There are archangels such as Michael and Gabriel (Jude 1:9; Daniel 10:13; Luke 1:26; 1 Thess. 4:16). There are also unnamed angels (Eph. 6:12, Col; 1:16; Eph. 1:21-22; Romans 8:38).

## **Angelic Ministries**

I believe that angels have certain ministries that they perform. They deliver messages (Matthew 1:20), minister to God’s people (Psalm 91:11; Hebrews 1:14; Matthew 18:10), observe people (1 Peter 1:12; 1 Cor. 4:9), rejoice in salvation (Luke 15:10), inflict judgment (Rev. 8-9; 15-16), influence government (Daniel 10), perform miracles (Acts 12), and will accompany Christ at His return (1 Thess. 4:16; Matt 24:31).

## **Satan**

I believe that Satan is one of God’s created angels that revolted against God and has been cast out of heaven (Ezekiel 28:11-19; Isaiah 14:12-19; Luke 10:18; Daniel 10:13). Satan also has many different names like, adversary, slanderer, accuser, snake of old, Beelzebub

which means “Lord of the flies”, prince of demons, Lucifer, prince of this world, and prince of the power of the air (1 Peter 5:8; Matthew 12:24; Isaiah 14:12; Rev. 12:10).

### **Satan’s works**

I believe Satan tempts people (1 Thess. 3:5). He also deceives (2 Cor. 4:4; 2 Tim. 2:26; 2 Cor. 11:13-15), accuses (Job 1; Rev. 12:10), attempts to hinder God’s plan, snatches the truth (Mark 4:15), and opposes God’s servants (1 Thess. 2:18).

### **Demons**

I believe that both evil spirits and demons are under Satan’s authority (Matthew 12:24; 25:41; 1 Tim. 4:1; Eph. 6:12). They possess men (Matthew 4:24), and can possess animals (Matthew 8:30-32; Mark 5:11-13). They also inflict physical ailments (Matthew 9:32; 12:22-23; 2 Cor. 12:7), oppose believers (Eph. 6:12), and encourage false doctrine (1 Tim. 4:1-3).

### **Destiny of Fallen Angels and Satan**

I believe that some of the demons are currently chained in Tartarus (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6). Some are currently temporarily chained in an abyss (Luke 8:31; Rev. 9:11; 11:7). Satan will be bound in the abyss during the millennial reign of Christ (Rev. 20:2-3). All of them will be judged and cast into the lake of fire at the end of the millennium (Rev. 20:10; Matthew 25:41).

# **Anthropology**

## **Origin**

I believe that man was created on the sixth day of creation by God in His likeness (Genesis 1:27; 2:7; 9:6; 1 Tim. 2:13-14; Mark 10:6). God has given man dominion over animals and the created earth (Genesis 1:26; Psalm 8:6). Eve was created from man's rib (Genesis 2:22), showing that men and women are equal in value and worth, yet different in function.

## **Human Nature**

I believe that all humans have material and immaterial parts to their being (Mark 12:30; Deuteronomy 6:4-5). The body is a whole, it is unified.

## **Origin of Soul**

I believe that God forms the soul indirectly from the souls of the parents. We are in the likeness of our parents (Hebrews 7:10; Genesis 2:1-3). This view is called Traducianism.

## **Fall of Humanity**

I believe that sin originated with Satan, and that Adam and Eve were tested for their obedience and they failed (Genesis 3). Because of Adam's sin, we have all sinned in him (Romans 5:12; 1 Cor. 15:21-23). We are born with a sin nature (Psalm 51:5; 58:1-5; Eph. 2:3).

## **Results of the Fall**

I believe that because of sin the ground was cursed (Genesis 3:18-19), the serpent would crawl on its belly (Genesis 3:14), women would have increased pain in childbirth (Genesis 3:16), there would be marital conflict within the family (Genesis 3:16), men would become workers of the ground (Genesis 3:17-19), and there would be spiritual and physical death.

## **Hamartiology**

### **Total Depravity**

I believe that man has an inherited tendency to sin. We are totally depraved, every part of our body is affected by sin. We lack the ability to please and honor God in our own bodies. We cannot come to God in our own human power (Romans 7:18; 8:8; John 6:44).

### **Sin**

I believe sin is missing the mark. There are different kinds of sin. There are sins that are unto death and not unto death (1 John 5:16-17). There is also the unpardonable sin (Mark 3:28-30; Matthew 12:22-32). This is the malicious and willful rejection and slander against the Holy Spirit's work and attributing His works to Satan.

### **Affected Parties**

I believe that sin affects many aspects of life. It affects the believer personally (1 Cor. 6:18), and others (Matthew 5:23-24), it grieves the Holy Spirit (1 Thess. 5:19; Eph. 4:30), and affects the believer's relationship with God (Psalm 51:4).

### **Temptation**

I believe that temptation comes from many different places. First from the world (1 John 2:15-17), second from the flesh (Galatians 5:16-17; James 1:16-17), and third from the devil (1 Peter 5:8; Eph. 6).

### **What Does Sin Do?**

I believe that sin breaks fellowship with God, grieves the Holy Spirit, destroys our testimony, hinders our prayer life, hinders growth in ministry, leads to loss of future rewards, and causes God to discipline us. When we sin, we must ask God for forgiveness. We are positionally already forgiven. Asking God to forgive us renews our fellowship (1 John 1:5-2:2).

## **Soteriology**

### **Salvation**

I believe that salvation is by grace alone, through faith in God's Son, Jesus Christ. I believe that salvation is not by our own works, but only through Jesus Christ's work on the cross (Eph. 2:8-9).

### **Unconditional Election**

I believe that all people deserve to die and to be sent to hell for the sins they have committed (Romans 3:23; 5:19; 6:23). However, God does choose some people for salvation, this choice is not based on anything foreseen in them (John 15:16; Eph. 1:4; 2:8-9; 1 Peter 1:2; Romans 11:33-36).

### **Call**

I believe that God draws or invites people to salvation. This happens in two separate ways: the general and the efficacious call (Matthew 22:14; Acts 16:14; Romans 8:28-30; 1 Cor. 1:24-28).

### **Conversion**

I believe that there are two aspects of conversion. The first is faith, which is trust in the person and all-sufficient work of Jesus Christ (John 3:16; Eph. 2:8-9). The second is repentance, or a changed attitude toward sin, God, and Christ (Hebrews 6:1; Acts 2:28; 3:19; 11:18; 17:30; 2 Peter 3:9; 2 Tim. 2:25).

### **Results of Salvation**

I believe that there are several results of salvation for the believer. We are justified, which is to be declared righteous (Romans 3:23-26; 5:1,9). We are regenerated, which is the starting of a new spiritual life in the believer (Eph. 2; Titus 3:5-8; John 3:3; Col. 2:13). We are redeemed. God purchases the sinner and sets him free from sin's power (Hebrews 9:12; Romans 8:23). We are

reconciled. The sinners state of alienation from God is changed to peace (Col. 1:21-22; Eph. 2:16; 2 Cor. 5:18-20; Romans 5:10). We are adopted, which is where God accepts us as a son (Galatians 4:5-7; Eph. 1:5,13; Romans 8:23; John 1:12). We have union with Christ through the Holy Spirit. We are spiritually joined to Christ (1 Cor. 6:17). We are sanctified, or set apart to God from sin (1 Thess. 4:3-4; Eph. 5:26-27).

### **Assurance**

I believe that we are eternally secure in our salvation, because the Father keeps us (John 10:28-29; 1 Peter 1:5), the Son keeps us (John 17:24; Hebrews 7:25), and the Spirit seals us (Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30).

### **Sanctification**

I believe that we are commanded to grow in our spirituality (2 Peter 3:18). It is a day-by-day process to be more like Christ (2 Cor. 3:18; 4:16). Our goal as Christians is to be like Christ in all we do (Romans 8:29-30).

### **Glorification**

I believe that the final aspect of salvation is still future, where we will be transformed into the likeness of Christ, and be presented to the Lord without any blemish (Eph. 5:26-27; 2 Cor. 5:1-9).

## **Ecclesiology**

### **Universal Church**

I believe this is the general term used to refer to all believers from Pentecost to the rapture (Matthew 16:18; Eph. 1:20-23; 2:20-22; 5:22-27; Romans 12; 1 Cor. 12; Hebrews 13:20-21).

### **Local Church**

I believe the local church is an organized group of saved, baptized believers in a specific location, having the offices of pastor and deacon and practicing the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's table. I believe the mission of the church is to edify members and to fulfill the great commission in seeking to win the lost (1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:19-23; 2:16-22; 4:8-11).

### **Israel and the Church**

I believe that the church is not the same as Israel. There is a distinction between the two (Acts 3:12; 4:8-10; 5:21,35; Romans 11:25-27).

### **Church Ordinances**

I believe there are two ordinances that Christ has commanded us to practice within the local church. They are baptism and communion. I believe that baptism is a symbol of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 6:2-4; Col. 2:12-14). Baptism is to be by immersion only (Mark 1:10; John 3:23; Acts 8:38). I believe that communion is a memorial of Christ's sacrifice on the cross and is symbolized by the unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine (Luke 22:17-20).

### **Church Membership**

I believe that believers should join themselves to a local church (Acts 2:41-42). The requirements for membership as seen in Scriptures are, a credible

confession of a relationship with Jesus Christ, scriptural baptism (Acts 2:41-42; Matthew 28:19-20), and a willingness to grow in sound doctrine.

I believe that members have responsibilities, such as faithful attendance (Hebrews 10:24-25), support of the local church financially (1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:7), and active involvement in the ministry (Eph. 4:11-13).

### **Church Offices**

I believe that there are two biblical offices within the church. The first is the pastor (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:1-9). The Scriptures use several different words to describe a pastor: elder (1 Tim. 5:1), bishop (1 Tim. 3:1-2; 1 Peter 5:1-5; Hebrews 13:17), and shepherd (1 Peter 2:25). The New Testament uses these names interchangeably. The second office is deacon (1 Tim. 3:8-13, Acts 6:3). Deacons are servants of the church, so the pastor can focus on the teaching and preaching of the Word (Acts 6:4).

### **Church Government**

I believe the congregation is the decision-making entity within the local church (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5; Acts 6:4-6; 15:1-4; 15:22-32; Matthew 18:17).

### **Church Discipline**

I believe at times a church must discipline its members. There are different reasons given in Scripture as to what merits church discipline: immorality (1 Cor. 5:1-13), false doctrine (1 Tim. 1:18-20; 6:3-5), disorderly walk (2 Thess. 3:6,14), divisiveness (Romans 16:17-18), and an unrepentant attitude toward known sin (Matthew 18:15-17).

I believe the biblical way to discipline people out of membership is to privately admonish them to quit sinning (2 Thess. 3:14-15), to confront with witnesses (Matthew 18), to bring the matter before the church (1 Tim. 5:20), then to vote them out of the fellowship (2 Thess. 3:6, 14).

I believe that the most important reason why we discipline is to restore the erring member back into the church (Galatians 6:1; 2 Cor. 2:5-8; 2 Tim. 2:24-26).

### **Separation**

I believe there are two different kinds of separation. The first is personal separation, which is to separate from sin against God (James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Eph. 5:11; Romans 12:1-2). The second is ecclesiastical separation, which is separation that a church would do in religious matters, from apostasy, or from erring brothers (1 John 2:15-17; Eph. 5:11; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; Romans 16:17-18; 2 John 9-11; 2 Tim. 2:14-21; 3:15; 2 Thess. 3:14-15).

## **Eschatology**

### **Death**

I believe all people will live forever. Believers will live together with Christ (2 Cor. 5:8; Philippians 1:21-24), and unbelievers, because of their sins (Eph. 2:1-3), will be separated from God forever in hell and eventually be cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:1-15; Matthew 25:46).

### **Rapture**

I believe Jesus Christ will return in the clouds to take His children home to be His bride (1 Thess. 4:13-18). God has promised us that He will keep us from His wrath, the tribulation (1 Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 3:10).

I believe the rapture can happen at any time. Christ's imminent return is a recurring theme throughout Scripture (1 Cor. 1:7-8; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thess. 1:9-10; Titus 2:13; James 5:7-9; 1 Peter 1:13).

### **Tribulation**

I believe the tribulation will be a time of worldwide judgment as God's wrath is poured out upon the world (Zephaniah 1:14-18; Rev. 6:16; 11:18; 14:10; 15:1).

I believe the tribulation will last for seven years, divided into two three and a half year periods (Daniel 9:27; Rev. 11:2). The tribulation will end when Christ returns to the earth and fight the Battle of Armageddon (Matthew 24:21-22).

I believe that during the tribulation there will be three types of judgments, each containing seven individual judgments: seven seals (Rev. 6:1-17), seven trumpets (Rev. 8:1-9,21), and seven bowls (Rev. 16:1-21).

### **Characters during the Tribulation**

I believe that the Antichrist will be a man of sin, the beast of the sea, the son of perdition, proud, blasphemous, and powerful (1 John 2:18; 2 Thess. 2:3-12; Rev. 13:4-8; 16:13; 19:20; Daniel 11:36).

I believe that the False Prophet (Rev. 16:13; 19:20) will introduce false religion, and direct worship to the Antichrist. He is called the beast of the land (Rev. 13:11-17).

I believe that the 144,000 witnesses from each of the twelve tribes of Israel will be witnesses of Jesus Christ and go throughout the nations testifying about Jesus Christ (Rev. 7:2-8; 14:1-5).

I believe that the two witnesses will perform miracles and will have power. They will eventually be executed by the beast after which they will be resurrected and ascend into heaven (Rev. 11:3-14).

### **Judgment Seat of Christ**

I believe that after the rapture every believer will be rewarded for their works, faithfulness, and proper motives toward Christ while serving on earth (Romans 14:1-12; 2 Cor. 4:2-5; 5:10). These rewards include: a crown for self discipline (1 Cor. 9:25), a crown of rejoicing for witnessing and soul-winning (1 Thess. 2:19), a crown of life for faithfulness under trials (James 1:12), a crown of righteousness for living in light of Christ's return (2 Tim. 4:8), and a crown of glory for faithful leaders and those who submit to them (1 Peter 5:4).

### **Millennium**

I believe that after the rapture and tribulation there will be a period of one thousand years of celebration (Rev. 20:1-10). I believe this will be a period of peace and worship (Zephaniah 3:8-10). The nation of Israel will be regathered (Isaiah 11:10-16; Zephaniah 3:16-20), and nature will be returned to its pre-fall conditions (Isaiah 11:5-9).

### **Great White Throne Judgment**

I believe that after the millennium there will be a judgment of all unbelievers. The basis of their judgment will be whether or not their names are written in the book of life, and according to their works (Rev. 20:11-15).