

Harpeth Baptist Church

“Holding forth the Word of Life”

STATEMENT OF DOCTRINE

1. **THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.** We believe the Holy Scriptures to be the plenary verbally inspired Word of God, authoritative, inerrant, infallible, and God breathed. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 2 Pet. 1:20; Matt. 5:18)
2. **THE GODHEAD.** We believe in one Triune God, existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, eternal in being, identical in essence, equal in power and glory and having the same attributes and perfections. (Deut. 6:4; 2 Cor. 13:14)
3. **THE TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF MAN.** We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam’s sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, became alienated from God, and is totally unable to regain his former position. (Gen. 1:26; 3:1-24; Rom. 3:23; Rom. 5:12; Eph. 2:12)
4. **THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST.** We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man through His precious Blood. We believe that He accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice, dying for our sins and the sins of the world. (John 1:1-14, 18; Luke 1:35; Rom. 3:24-26; 4:25; 1 Cor. 15:3-4) We believe the third day He arose bodily, literally. (1 Cor. 15:20; Luke 24:39)

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We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, bodily flesh and bone, ascended into heaven, exalted at the right hand of God the Father and His people’s High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of intercession and advocacy. (Heb. 1:3; 3:1; 12:2; 7:23-25; 9:24; 1 Jn 2:1-2)

5. THE PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. We believe the Holy Spirit is the Third person of the Trinity who convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He also in the present age regenerates believers in Christ, baptizes them into the church, the body of Christ, indwells them permanently, seals them unto the day of redemption, bestows spiritual gifts upon each one. (2 Cor. 13:14; Matt. 3:16-17; John 16:8; 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:13; 1 Cor. 12:11)
6. SALVATION. We believe that salvation is a gift of God in grace (100%) and is received by man through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ whose precious blood was shed for the forgiveness of our sins. (Eph. 2:8-9; John 1:12; Eph. 1:7; Rom. 6:23; Titus 3:5; Matt. 26:28)
7. THE SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER. We believe that all born again believers are kept secure in Christ in Time and Eternity. (Rom. 8:1; 29-30; 38-39; John 10:27-30)
8. THE CHURCH. We believe that the church, the body of Christ, both local (visible) and universal (invisible) is a spiritual organism made up of all born again persons of this church age, irrespective of their affiliation with Christian organizations. (Eph. 1:22; 23; 5:25-27; 1 Cor. 12:12, 13)

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9. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST. We believe in the personal, imminent, literal coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His own (the Church) and His subsequent pre-millennial return to Earth to set up His kingdom. (1 Thess. 1:9-10; 4:13-18; Zech. 14:11; Rev. 20:6)
10. THE ETERNAL STATE. We believe that the souls of those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation do at death immediately pass into His presence and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the body at His coming for the Church, when soul and body reunited shall be associated with Him forever in glory; but the souls of unbelievers remain after death in conscious misery until the final judgment of the great white throne at the close of the millennium, when soul and body reunited shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated, but to be punished with everlasting separation from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power. (Luke 16:19-26; 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Rev. 20:11-15)
11. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BELIEVERS. We believe that all believers should seek to walk in such a manner as not to bring a reproach upon their Lord and Savior. (Rom. 12:1-2; Gal. 5:16, 25; 2 Cor. 6:14; 7:1) We believe that it is the obligation of every believer to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scriptures and to seek to proclaim the gospel to all the world. (Acts 1:8) We believe that it is the responsibility of

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all believers to remember the work of the Lord in prayer and to support it with their means as the Lord has prospered. (1 Cor. 16:2)

12. CHURCH ORDINANCES. We believe that the Lord Jesus instituted the ordinance of baptism and the Lord’s Supper to be observed by all believers until His return. (Matt. 28:19, 20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26)
13. THE PERSONALITY OF SATAN. We believe in the personality of Satan who is the open and declared enemy of God and man. (Job 1:6,7; Matt. 4:2-11; Isaiah 14:2)
14. THE BLESSED HOPE. We believe that the next great event in the fulfillment of prophecy will be the coming of the Lord Jesus in the air to receive unto Himself the dead in Christ and believers who are alive at His coming, otherwise known as the rapture and translation of the Church. (1 Cor. 15:51-57; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-14)
15. THE TRIBULATION. We believe that the rapture of the church will be followed by the fulfillment of Israel’s seventieth week, the latter of which is the time of Jacob’s trouble, the great tribulation. (Daniel 9:27; Jeremiah 30:7; Matt. 24:15-21; Rev. 6:1-19; 21)
16. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST. We believe that the great tribulation will be climaxed by the (pre-millennial) return of the Lord Jesus Christ to Earth to set up His kingdom. (Zech. 14:4-11; Matt. 24:5-25; 46; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; Rev. 20:6)

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