

StandPoints of Scripture

A Complete System of Faith & Practice

I. GOD: HIS LOVE - MY LIFE

GOD LOVES

As Creator (Gen 1:1), God is loving and just (Ex 34:6-7), the one true God (Deut 6:4; Mk 12:28-34), the Ancient of Days (Dan 7:13), and the Father of **His divine Son Jesus Christ** (Jn 17:3; Rom 15:6; 1 Cor 8:4,6; 11:3; Eph 4:4-6; 1 Thess 1:9-10; 1 Tim 2:5; 2 John 3), who was begotten in eternity (Prov 8:22-36; Mic 5:2) as the express image of the Father (Col 1:15; Heb 1:3) and His partner in creation (Gen 1:26; Eph 3:9; Col 1:16). **The Holy Spirit**, the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ (Rom 8:9-17, 26-27), was present at creation (Gen 1:2), the tabernacle (Ex 31:2-5), the commandments (Ex 31:18; Lk 11:20; Matt 12:28), represents the presence of God (Psalm 51:13), instrumental in the incarnation and ministry of Christ (Lk 1:35), the new covenant (Ezek 36:26-27), convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment (Jn 16:7-14), catalyzed the original and operation of the church (Book of Acts), is given in response to obedience (Acts 5:32), works out Christ's character in the believer (Gal 5:22-26), and makes a final appeal to humanity (Rev 22:17) - an invitation that should not be persistently rejected (Mt 12:31-32; Eph 4:30).

II. THE SCRIPTURES: HIS WORD - MY WITNESS

GOD REVEALS

God's Word is "a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path" (Ps 119:105), "given by inspiration of God and profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Tim 3:16), essential for life (Mt 4:4) and "sharper than any two edged sword" (Heb 4:12). The Old and New Testaments are the only basis for all faith and practice (Isa 8:20; Jn 5:39; 2 Tim 3:17). While hearing the Word of God catalyzes faith (Rom 10:17), we are also called to be "doers of the word" (Jam 1:22-23). Therefore "let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom" (Col 3:16), trusting that its distribution will not "return void" (Isa 55:11).

III. CREATION: HIS ACTION - MY AWE

GOD CREATES

"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear" (Heb 11:3; Jn 1:1; Rom 1:20; Col 1:16-17; Job 38:4-6). The 6-day creation account underlines a wholesome diet, the sanctity of marriage between a male and a female (Gen 1:26; Mt 19:4-6), the importance of family life (Gen 1-2; Eph 5-6; 1 Pet 3), and humanity's need for redemption from sin (Gen 3). The Gospel affirms the honor, dignity, and respect for all creation (Rom 8:18-23), solicits responsible relationships, and points towards the restoration of the image of God in humanity (2 Cor 5:17; Gal 6:15; Phil 1:6), prompting an urgent end-time call to "fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water" (Rev 14:7; Ex 20:11) before earth's final destruction and the ultimate recreation of a new heaven and a new earth (2 Pet 3:5-13; Rev 21).

IV. GREAT CONTROVERSY: OUR CONFLICT - HIS CALL

GOD CARES

The conflict between good and evil originated in heaven with Lucifer (Isa 14; Ezek 28), continues in the world with the fall of Adam and Eve on account of disobedience (Gen 3; 1 Jn 3:4), and confronts both Christ and His followers (Gen 3:15; Mt 26-28; Rev 12). The plan of salvation was laid at the foundation of the world (Zech 6:12-13; 1 Pet 1:19-20; Rev 13:8), and was implemented to save fallen humanity from the wages of sin (Rom 3:23; 6:23). As Christ overcame, so shall the Christian (Heb 12:1-2; Rev 2-3): at His appearing the image of Jesus will be fully reflected in us (1 Jn 3:2).

V. SANCTUARY: HIS PLACE - MY PEACE

GOD IS PRESENT

The Sanctuary was the place of God's presence (Ex 25:8) and communicated His plan of salvation: in the sacrificial system and services sinners received and experienced forgiveness and a second chance. Prompted by His cleansing of the heavenly Sanctuary (beginning Oct. 23, 1844; Dan 8:14) as a High Priest, "a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man" (Heb 8:1-2; Zech 6:12-13; Prov 9:1), Christ is finishing His priestly work of atonement in anticipation of receiving "the throne of his father David" (Lk 1:32-33), where "he reigns over the house of Jacob forever" and finally "makes his enemies his footstool" (Heb 10:12-13; Ps 110:1-2). The Most Holy Place contained the Ten Commandments as a reflection of His character (Ex 33-34; Mt 5:17-20; 22:36-40; Js 2:10). Framed in grace and redemption (Ex 20:2), the law of God compels us to true worship, parental honor, peacefulness, integrity, purity, honesty, and humility. While Christ is the end of the law for righteousness (Rom 10:4), the New Testament also affirms the enduring veracity of the law (Mt 7:23; Rom 3:31; 1 Jn 3:4), written in our hearts (Heb 8:10). The end-time appeal of the Law is evident and urgent (Rev 12:17; 14:12; 22:14).

VI. SABBATH: HIS TIME - MY TEST

GOD WAITS

At the center of God's law stands the 7th-day Sabbath as the crown of creation (Gen 1-2; Ex 20:8-11), the commemoration of redemption (Deut 5:12-15), the core of sanctification (Ezek 20:20), the centerpiece between cross and resurrection (Lk 23:54-56) - a gift of grace (Mt 11:28-30; Mk 2:27-28; Heb 4:3-11) and a test of obedience (Ex 31:14-17; Isa 58:13), especially in the end-time (Mt 24:20; Rev 14:7,12). The Sabbath is the true sign of the living God (Ex 20:11; Acts 14:15; 2 Tim 2:19; Rev 14:7) and is gratefully kept by those who belong to the God of Jacob (Ps 146:5-6) from Friday evening to Saturday evening (Gen 1-2; Lev 23:32; Neh 13:19; Acts 13:42, 44; 17:2; 18:4; Rev 1:10).

VII. CROSS, RESURRECTION, SECOND COMING: HIS DEATH - MY LIFE

GOD GIVES

Christ's death and resurrection form the point of faith and forgiveness, the source of salvation. Righteousness by faith is God's gift through grace, not works (Rom 4:25; 5:16-18; Eph 2:8-9; Tit 3:4-7) is accessible to all through the new covenant of Jesus Christ (Jer 31:31; Mt 26:28; Mk 14:24; Lk 22:20; 1 Cor 11:25; Heb 8-9; 12:24), prompting deep conviction (Acts 2:37-38), a new birth (John 3) to a new creation (2 Cor 5:17), with daily conversion and determined surrender (1 Cor 15:31), and ultimately victory over sin (Mt 1:21; 1 John; Rev 2-3). Christians commemorate Christ's death and resurrection through baptism by immersion (Acts 8:26-39; Rom 6:1-6) and the Lord's Supper (Communion). The bread represents Christ's body, a sacrifice of life giving life to the world (Jn 3:16; 6:31-35; 1 Jn 5:12), and a ransom Jesus paid (Mk 10:45; Heb 2:9). The red (unfermented) grape juice - the fruit of the vine (Lev 8:2; 23:6; Lk 22:7; 1 Cor 5:7; 10:16; 11:25; 1 Pet 1:18-19) - represents Christ's blood (Col 1:14,20; Heb 9:7,12,20), an offering only the Son of God could make, as a sweet incense before the altar in Heaven (Lev 16:12; Rev 8:3). Partakers anticipate the resurrection and translation of all believers at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ (1 Cor 15; 1 Thess 4:13-18) - the mandated priority of the early church (Acts 1:11), the "blessed hope" (Tit 2:13). The death, burial and resurrection of Christ is the pattern for Christians: death is an unconscious state of sleep (Eccl 9:5-6; John 11), interrupted by the glorious first resurrection of believers at the Second Coming (1 Thess 4:13-18; 1 Cor 15), followed by a heavenly millennium during which the righteous judge (1 Cor 6:2-3; Rev 21) and a second resurrection of the wicked before their destruction in hell (Rev 20), whose fire will burn out as a cleansing of the universe from sin and suffering (Ps 37:20; Mal 4:1; 2 Pet 3:7-13) - through God's strange act (Isa 28:21) His mercy shines forever.

VIII. CHURCH: HIS PEOPLE - MY FAMILY

GOD SHARES

Arrayed in white linen, clean and pure, which is the righteousness of Christ (Rev 19:7-8; 2 Cor 11:2; Rev 12:1), the church enjoys Christ as her head (Eph 5:23). It is organized like a body for service by all members (Mt 16:16-19; Acts; 1 Cor 12; Eph 4:11-16), functions with "primitive godliness", is led and cared for by appointed elders and pastors (1 Tim 2-3; Tit 1; 1 Pet 3), and sustained by tithes and offerings for local and global ministry and outreach (Mal 3:8-10; Mt 23:23; 1 Cor 9:14; 16:1-2; 1 Tim 5:18). The faithful church becomes the prophetic target of the evil one (Rev 12:17) but will emerge victoriously (SS 6:10). The church embraces its prophetic privilege and responsibility to preach the eternal gospel to the world before the end (Rev 10:11; Rev 14:6-7), in fulfillment of the Great Commission (Mt 24:14; 28:18-20). It accepts the end-time role and authority of the spirit of prophecy as the testimony of Jesus for particular guidance in the last days (2 Chron 20:20; Am 3:7; Eph 4:11-16; Rev 1:2, 9; 12:17; 19:10; 22:9).

IX. LIFE: HIS EXAMPLE - MY EXPRESSION

GOD LEADS

In concordance with the witness of the Old Testament (Ex 15:26; Deut 28:58-61; Num 25:2; Dan 1) and His own example, Jesus serves as a model and mandate of physical, emotional, mental and spiritual well-being, relational wholeness and constructive outreach (Mt 4:23-25; 1 Cor 6:18-20; 3 Jn 2), foreshadowing humanity's final restoration (1 Cor 15; Rev 21:1-4). This example of Christ's life is patterned in our daily lives through loving obedience (Jn 14:15; 15:10) - a life-time process of sanctification (Jn 17:17-19; Rom 6:1-2; 12:1-2; Heb 12:1-2), which affects dress, diet, and all matters of deportment in all aspects of life. The believer's new life includes abstinence from any and all harmful substances like alcohol, nicotine, caffeine, drugs, and unclean meats (Lev 11; Acts 15:20,29; 1 Cor 10:31). In the spirit of 1 Corinthians 13, Christ's followers extend His love to all humanity, especially the underprivileged, "the orphans and widows" (Isa 58; 61:1; Jn 1:27), as a final reflection of His character (Rev 14:1-5).

X. PROPHECY: FINAL CRISIS - FINAL CALL

GOD COMPLETES

In cooperation with Christ, Christians are called to be conquerors and overcomers, as exemplified by Daniel and his friends. While the Investigative Judgment is going on in Heaven, while the sins of repentant believers are being removed from the sanctuary, a special work of purification and putting away of sin among God's people on earth unfolds - a work presented in the Three Angels' Messages of Revelation 14 and 18, which defines the central, and urgent message of the final movement in preparation for the final harvest.