



STATEMENT OF FAITH

Adapted from the 1853 New Hampshire Declaration of Faith

1. The Scriptures. We believe the Holy Bible was written by people who were divinely inspired, and that it is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction.¹ God is its author; salvation is its purpose; and truth, without any mixture of error, is its content.² Scripture reveals the principles by which God will judge us.³ Therefore, it is now, and will be to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard for evaluating all human conduct, creeds, and opinions.⁴

¹ 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Samuel 23:2; Acts 1:16, 3:21; John 10:35; Luke 16:29-31; Psalm 119:111; Romans 3:1-2.

² 2 Timothy 3:15; 1 Peter 1:10-12; Acts 11:14; Romans 1:16, 3:4; Mark 16:16; John 5:38-39, 17:17; Proverbs 30:5-6; Revelation 22:18-19.

³ Romans 2:12; John 12:47-48; 1 Corinthians 4:3-4; Luke 10:10-16, 12:47-48.

⁴ Philippians 1:9-11, 2:1-2, 3:16; Ephesians 4:3-6, 6:17; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 1 Peter 4:11; 1 John 4:1, 4:6; Isaiah 8:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Acts 17:11; Jude 3; Psalm 119:59-60.

2. The True God. We believe there is one and only one living and true God—an infinite, intelligent Spirit. His name is the LORD, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth.¹ He is inexpressibly glorious in holiness and is worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love.² In the unity of the Godhead there are three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.³ They are equal in every divine perfection, and they carry out distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.⁴

¹ John 4:24; Psalm 83:18, 147:5; Hebrews 3:4; Romans 1:20; Jeremiah 10:10.

² Exodus 15:11; Isaiah 6:3; 1 Peter 1:15-16; Revelation 4:6-8, 4:11; Mark 12:30; Matthew 10:37; Jeremiah 2:12-13.

³ Matthew 28:19; John 15:26; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 1 John 5:7.

⁴ John 5:17, 10:30, 14:23, 17:5, 17:10; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11; Philippians 2:5-6; Ephesians 2:18; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Revelation 1:4-5.

3. Humanity and the Fall. We believe humanity is the special creation of God, made in his own image.¹ God created them male and female as the crowning work of his creation.² God created the human race in holiness under his law.³ By voluntary transgression, however, humanity fell from that holy and happy state.⁴ As a result, all people are now sinners, not by external compulsion but by choice.⁵ They by nature entirely lack the holiness that is required by the law of God and are actively inclined to evil; therefore, they are under just condemnation to a sentence of eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.⁶

¹ Genesis 1:27.

² Genesis 1:27, 1:31; Matthew 19:4; Mark 10:6.

³ Ecclesiastes 7:29; Acts 17:26-29; Genesis 2:16-17.

⁴ Genesis 3:6-24; Romans 5:12.

⁵ Romans 3:9-18, 5:15-19, 8:7; John 3:6; Psalm 51:5; Isaiah 53:6; Genesis 6:12.

⁶ Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 1:18, 1:20, 1:32, 2:1-16, 3:19; Galatians 3:10, 3:22; Matthew 20:15; Ezekiel 18:19-20.

4. The Way of Salvation. We believe the salvation of sinners is completely by grace, through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God.¹ By the appointment of the Father, he freely took to himself our nature, but without sin.² He honored the divine law by his personal obedience and made a full atonement for our sins by his substitutionary death, satisfying God's wrath.³ He rose from the dead and is now enthroned in heaven.⁴ Jesus, the Son, unites in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections and, as such, is qualified in every way to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior.⁵

¹Ephesians 2:8; Matthew 18:11; 1 John 4:10; 1 Corinthians 3:5-7; Acts 15:11; John 1:1-14, 3:16; Hebrews 4:14, 12:24.

²Philippians 2:6-7; Hebrews 2:9, 2:14; 2 Corinthians 5:21.

³Isaiah 42:21, 53:4-5; Philippians 2:8; Galatians 4:4-5; Romans 3:21-26, 4:25; Matthew 20:28; 1 John 2:2, 4:10; 1 Corinthians 15:1-3; Hebrews 9:13-15.

⁴Hebrews 1:3, 1:8, 8:1; Colossians 3:1-4.

⁵Hebrews 2:18, 7:25-26; Colossians 2:9; Psalm 34.

5. Justification. We believe the great gospel blessing that Christ¹ secures to those who believe in him is justification.² Justification includes the pardon of sin,³ righteous standing before God, and the promise of eternal life founded on principles of righteousness.⁴ It is not given because of any works of righteousness we have done but only through faith in the Redeemer's blood.⁵ By virtue of this faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us by God.⁶ Justification immediately brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God and secures every other blessing we need for time and eternity.⁷

¹John 1:16; Ephesians 3:8.

²Acts 13:39; Isaiah 53:11-12; Romans 8:1.

³Romans 5:9; Zechariah 13:1; Matthew 9:6; Acts 10:43.

⁴Romans 5:17; Titus 3:5-7; 1 Peter 3:7; 1 John 2:25; Romans 5:21.

⁵Romans 4:4-5; Romans 5:21; Romans 6:23; Philippians 3:7-9.

⁶Romans 5:19; Romans 3:24-26; Romans 4:23-25; 1 John 2:12.

⁷Romans 5:1-3, 11; 1 Corinthians 1:30-31; Matthew 6:33; 1 Timothy 4:8.

6. The Freeness of Salvation. We believe the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel.¹ It is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a heartfelt, penitent, and obedient faith.² Nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and rejection of God.³

¹Isaiah 55:1; Revelation 22:17; Luke 14:17.

²Romans 16:26; Mark 1:15; Romans 1:15-17.

³John 5:40; Matthew 23:37; Romans 9:32; Proverbs 1:24; Acts 13:46.

7. Grace in Regeneration. We believe sinners must be regenerated, or born again, to be saved.¹ Regeneration consists of God's gift of a holy inclination to the mind.² It is accomplished in a way that is beyond our comprehension. It is carried out by the power of the Holy Spirit using divine truth³ to obtain our voluntary obedience to the gospel.⁴ The proper evidence of regeneration appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith, and newness of life.⁵

¹John 3:3, 6-7; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Revelation 14:3; Revelation 21:27.

²Corinthians 5:17; Ezekiel 36:26; Deuteronomy 30:6; Romans 2:28-29; Romans 5:5; 1 John 4:7.

³John 3:8; John 1:13; James 1:16-18; 1 Corinthians 1:30; Philippians 2:13.

⁴1 Peter 1:22-25; 1 John 5:1; Ephesians 4:20-24; Colossians 3:9-11.

⁵Ephesians 5:9; Romans 8:9; Galatians 5:16-23; Ephesians 2:14-21; Matthew 3:8-10; Matthew 7:20; 1 John 5:4, 18.

8. Repentance and Faith. We believe repentance and faith are sacred duties as well as inseparable graces. They are produced in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God,¹ who convinces us of our guilt, danger, helplessness, and the way of salvation by Christ.² And they consist of turning to God with genuine sorrow, confession, and a petition for mercy;³ receiving heartily the Lord Jesus Christ as Prophet, Priest, and King; and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior.⁴

¹Mark 1:15; Acts 11:18; Ephesians 2:8; 1 John 5:1.

²John 16:8; Acts 2:37-38; Acts 16:30-31.

³Luke 18:13; Luke 15:18-21; James 4:7-10; 2 Corinthians 7:11; Romans 10:12-13; Psalm 51.

⁴Romans 10:9-11; Acts 3:22-23; Hebrews 4:14; Psalm 2:6; Hebrews 1:8; Hebrews 7:25; 2 Timothy 1:12.

9. God's Purpose of Grace. We believe election is the eternal purpose of God according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners.¹ Election is perfectly consistent with human free

agency and includes all the means necessary to achieve God's purpose.² It is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, which is infinitely free, wise, holy, and unchangeable.³ Election completely rules out boasting and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and the active imitation of his free mercy.⁴ It encourages the greatest possible exercise of human responsibility.⁵ The election of individuals may be confirmed by its effects in everyone who truly believes the gospel.⁶ Election is the foundation of Christian assurance,⁷ and confirming our election deserves our greatest diligence.⁸

¹ 2 Timothy 1:8-9; Ephesians 1:3-14; 1 Peter 1:1-2; Romans 11:5-6; John 15:16; 1 John 4:19.

² 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; Acts 13:48; John 10:16; Matthew 20:16; Acts 15:14.

³ Exodus 33:18-19; Matthew 20:15; Ephesians 1:11; Romans 9:23-24; Jeremiah 31:3; Romans 11:28-29; James 1:17-18; 2 Timothy 1:9; Romans 11:32-36.

⁴ 1 Corinthians 4:7; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Romans 3:27; Romans 4:16; Colossians 3:12; 1 Corinthians 15:10; 1 Peter 5:10; 1 Thessalonians 2:12-13; 1 Peter 2:9; Luke 18:7.

⁵ 2 Timothy 2:10; 1 Corinthians 9:22; John 6:37-40; 2 Peter 1:10.

⁶ 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10.

⁷ Romans 8:28-30; Isaiah 42:16; Romans 11:29.

⁸ 2 Peter 1:10-11; Philippians 3:12; Hebrews 6:11.

10. Sanctification. We believe sanctification is the process by which we are made partakers of God's holiness, according to his purpose.¹ Sanctification is a progressive work.² It begins in regeneration³ and continues in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit and by God's appointed means. These means include the word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, prayer, and the oversight and fellowship of the visible church.⁴

¹ 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 2 Corinthians 13:9; Ephesians 1:4.

² Proverbs 4:18; Hebrews 6:1; 2 Peter 1:5-8; Philippians 3:12-16.

³ 1 John 2:29; Romans 8:5; John 3:6; Philippians 1:9-11.

⁴ Philippians 2:12-13; Ephesians 4:11-12, 30; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Luke 9:23; Luke 11:35; Matthew 26:41; Ephesians 6:18.

11. The Perseverance of Saints. We believe all genuine believers endure to the end.¹ Their persevering obedience to Christ is the primary mark distinguishing them from superficial professors.² A special providence watches over their welfare,³ and they are kept by the power of God through faith to salvation.⁴

¹ John 8:31; 1 John 2:27-28; 1 John 3:9; 1 John 5:18.

² 1 John 2:19; John 13:18; Matthew 13:20-21; John 6:66-69.

³ Romans 8:28; Matthew 6:30-33; Jeremiah 32:40; Psalm 121:3; Psalm 91:11-12.

⁴ Philippians 1:6; Philippians 2:12-13; Jude 24-25; Hebrews 1:14; Hebrews 13:5; 1 John 4:4.

12. The Harmony of the Law and the Gospel. We believe the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral governance.¹ It is holy, just, and good.² Fallen human beings are unable to fulfill the precepts of the law, which the Scriptures attribute entirely to their love of sin.³ A chief purpose of the gospel is to deliver people from this love of sin and to restore them through a mediator to a sincere obedience to the holy law. The visible church's means of grace also serve this great purpose.⁴

¹ Romans 3:31; Matthew 5:17; Luke 16:17; Romans 3:20; Romans 4:15.

² Romans 7:12; Romans 7:7, 14, 22; Galatians 3:21; Psalm 119.

³ Romans 8:7-8; Joshua 24:19; Jeremiah 13:23; John 6:44; John 5:44.

⁴ Romans 8:2-4; Romans 10:4; Hebrews 8:10; Hebrews 12:14; Jude 20-21.

13. A Gospel Church. We believe a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers,¹ joined by commitment to one another in the faith and fellowship of the gospel.² A visible church observes the ordinances of Christ,³ submits to his laws,⁴ and exercises the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in

them by his word.⁵ The only scriptural officers of the church are elders (also called overseers or pastors) and deacons,⁶ whose qualifications and duties are defined in the epistles to Timothy and to Titus.

¹ 1 Corinthians 1:1-13; Matthew 18:17; Acts 5:11; Acts 8:1; Acts 11:21-23; 1 Corinthians 4:17; 1 Corinthians 14:23; 3 John 9.

² Acts 2:41-42; 2 Corinthians 8:5; Acts 2:47; 1 Corinthians 5:12-13.

³ 1 Corinthians 11:2; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; Romans 16:17-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Matthew 18:15-20; 2 Corinthians 2:17; 1 Corinthians 4:17.

⁴ Matthew 28:20; John 14:15; John 15:12; 1 John 4:21; John 14:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:2; 2 John 6; Galatians 6:2; All the Epistles.

⁵ Ephesians 4:7; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Philippians 1:27.

⁶ Philippians 1:1; Acts 14:23; Acts 15:22; 1 Timothy 3; Titus 1.

14. Baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water¹ into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.² It is a solemn and beautiful emblem that declares our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, as well as our union with him in death to sin and resurrection to a new life.³ Baptism is a prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and the Lord's Supper.⁴ We likewise believe that the Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby the members of the church, following earnest self-examination, use bread and the cup in a sacred manner to commemorate together the dying love of Christ.⁵ The ordinances belong to the gathered church, distinguishing believers from unbelievers and making the church visible on earth.⁶

¹ Acts 8:36-39; Matthew 3:5-6; John 3:22-23; John 4:1-2; Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:12; Acts 16:32-34; Acts 18:8.

² Matthew 28:19; Acts 10:47-48; Galatians 3:27-28.

³ Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:20-21; Acts 22:16.

⁴ Acts 2:41-42; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts, and Epistles.

⁵ 1 Corinthians 11:26; Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20.

⁶ 1 Corinthians 11:28; 1 Corinthians 5:1, 8; 1 Corinthians 10:3-32; 1 Corinthians 11:17-32; John 6:26-71.

15. The Lord's Day. We believe one day of the week is to be kept holy and set apart to God as a sabbath for regular observance.¹ This day commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead on the first day of the week and points to the eternal rest that awaits the people of God.² It is a day when, after preparing our hearts and ordering our affairs beforehand, we devote ourselves to both public³ and private exercises of worship,⁴ and it includes carrying out duties of necessity and mercy commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

¹ Exodus 20:8; Revelation 1:10; Psalm 118:24; Hebrews 10:24-25.

² Hebrews 4:3-11.

³ Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 11:26; Isaiah 58:13-14.

⁴ Psalm 118:15.

16. Civil Government. We believe civil government exists by divine appointment for the benefit and good order of human society.¹ Government officials are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed.² The exception is for matters contrary to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ,³ who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth.⁴

¹ Romans 13:1-7; Deuteronomy 16:18; 2 Samuel 23:3; Exodus 18:21-23; Jeremiah 30:21.

² Matthew 22:21; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13; 1 Timothy 2:1-3.

³ Acts 5:29; Matthew 10:28; Daniel 3:15-18; Daniel 6:7-10; Acts 4:18-20.

⁴ Matthew 23:10; Romans 14:4; Revelation 19:16; Psalm 72:11; Psalm 2; Romans 14:9-13.

17. The Righteous and the Wicked. We believe there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked.¹ Only those who are justified by faith in the name of the Lord Jesus and sanctified by the Spirit of our God are truly righteous in his judgment.² In contrast, all those who continue

in impenitence and unbelief are wicked in his sight and under the curse.³ This distinction among people holds both at death and afterward.⁴

¹ Malachi 3:18; Proverbs 12:26; Isaiah 5:20; Genesis 18:23; Acts 10:34-35; Romans 6:16.

² Romans 1:17; Romans 7:6; 1 John 2:29; 1 John 3:7; Romans 6:18, 22; 1 Corinthians 11:32; Proverbs 11:31; 1 Peter 4:17-18.

³ 1 John 5:19; Galatians 3:10; John 3:36; Isaiah 57:21; Psalm 10:4; Isaiah 55:6-7.

⁴ Proverbs 14:32; Luke 16:25; John 8:21-24; Proverbs 10:24; Luke 12:4-5; Luke 9:23-26; John 12:25-26; Ecclesiastes 3:17; Matthew 7:13-14.

18. The World to Come. We believe the end of the world is approaching.¹ At the last day Christ will descend from heaven² and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution.³ A public separation will then take place,⁴ in which the wicked will be justly assigned to endless punishment and the righteous to endless joy.⁵ This judgment will determine forever on principles of righteousness the final state of people in heaven or hell.⁶

¹ 1 Peter 4:7; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Hebrews 1:10-12; Matthew 25:31; Matthew 28:20; Matthew 13:39-43; 1 John 2:17; 2 Peter 3:3-13.

² Acts 1:11; Revelation 1:7; Hebrews 9:28; Acts 3:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11.

³ Acts 24:15; 1 Corinthians 15:12-59; Luke 14:14; Daniel 12:2; John 5:28-29; John 6:40; John 11:25-26; Acts 10:42.

⁴ Matthew 13:49; Matthew 13:37-43; Matthew 24:30-31; Matthew 25:31-33.

⁵ Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 22:11; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Mark 9:43-48; 2 Peter 2:9; Jude 7; Philippians 3:19; Romans 6:32; 2 Corinthians 5:10-11; John 4:36; 2 Corinthians 4:18.

⁶ Romans 3:5-6; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-12; Hebrews 6:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:5; Acts 17:31; Romans 2:2-16; Revelation 20:11-12; 1 John 2:28; 1 John 4:17; 2 Peter 3:11-12.