

ARTICLES OF FAITH  
OF  
REV. LEWIS BEELER, SR.  
(Abbreviated)

BIBLIOLOGY, THE HOLY SCRIPTURES:

I believe the Holy Bible to be the verbally and plenary inspired Word of God as recorded in the original manuscripts. Every word inscribed by the original authors of Scripture was inspired by God, and all of the Holy canon of Scripture was equally inspired. The Holy Bible was produced by Holy Spirit driven men, and is true and inerrant in every detail of which it speaks. The Holy Bible is sufficient for man to live a godly life, and is the supreme and final authority for faith and life.

I believe the Holy Bible has been preserved in its original tongues. Like God, the Word of God is eternal and shall never pass away, neither can it ultimately be changed by man. God has and will continue to supernaturally superintend and preserve His Word throughout history. (Psalms 119; Jeremiah 36:20-32; Matthew 5:18; 24:35; Luke 1:70; Romans 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Titus 1:2-3; Hebrews 1:1-2; 1 Peter 1:23; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Revelation 1:1-3)

THEOLOGY PROPER, GOD THE FATHER:

I believe there is one triune God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The persons of the Godhead are one in essence, distinct in personality, equal in power and glory. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2)

I believe God the Father is a real person. God is Spirit, not a man. He is self-existent, eternal, infinite, omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, immutable, sovereign, righteous and holy. He is creator and absolute ruler of the universe. God has predetermined all things, from the creation of the world to the election of His saints. (Genesis 1:1-31; Deuteronomy 10:14,17; Job 39; Psalms 90:2; 116:5; Isaiah 40:10-31; Malachi 3:6; John 4:24; Ephesians 1:11-12)

CHRISTOLOGY, GOD THE SON:

I believe Jesus Christ has existed without beginning with the Father. Jesus is eternally God and coequal with the Father. He became wholly man, without ceasing to be wholly God. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died a substitutionary death for the sin of mankind, rose bodily from the dead, ascended bodily into Heaven, and He is coming again to reign in power and glory. (Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2,14,29; 10:30; Acts 1:11; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 2:6)

PNEUMATOLOGY, GOD THE SPIRIT:

I believe the Holy Spirit is a real person who is completely God. The Holy Spirit was equally involved in creation with God the Father and Jesus the Son. The Holy Spirit guided the writers of the Holy Bible assuring the accuracy of their writings. He reproves the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. The Holy Spirit does the work of regeneration, baptizing believers into Christ. He indwells all believers in Christ at the moment of their salvation, He bestows spiritual gifts to all Christians as He sees fit, He fills (guides) those who are yielded to Him, and He teaches and seals believers in their salvation. (Genesis 1:2; John 3:5; 14:26; 16:8; 1 Corinthians 6:19; 12:12-13; Ephesians 1:13; 4:30; 2 Peter 1:21)

COSMOLOGY, CREATION:

I believe the Genesis account of the six day creation of the universe, to be the direct creative act of God. The Genesis account is a literal, accurate and historical record of creation. Creation was completed by God without any form of an evolutionary process. I believe in a young earth, of no more than a few thousand years of age. (Genesis 1-2; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 11:3)

ANTHROPOLOGY, MAN:

I believe the creation of Adam and Eve was the direct creative act of God. Adam and Eve were created in the image of God, and all men are descended from Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve were created in a state of creature innocence. Adam willfully sinned against God, and as a result fell from his sinless estate. All men have inherited a sinful nature from their father Adam, and all men have sinned in Adam. All men are totally depraved, and as such are unable to do anything to please God. All men are sinners by choice, and by nature, and as the consequence of their sin, face eternal judgment and condemnation. (Genesis 1:26-27; 3:6; Romans 3:10; Revelation 20:12)

HAMARTIOLOGY, SIN:

I believe sin came upon all of mankind as a result of the disobedience of Adam. All men are natural born sinners, and have committed personal sin against God. Sin has brought physical and spiritual death upon all of mankind. The unsaved are under the dominion and condemnation of sin, and only through personal faith in Jesus Christ can a person be freed from the eternal consequences of their sin. (Psalms 51:5; John 8:34; Romans 3:23; 5:12; 6:23; Ephesians 2:1)

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SOTERIOLOGY, SALVATION:

Salvation is a gift of the grace of God, whereby a person is brought from a position of condemnation before God, to a position of justification. When a person receives salvation they are freed from the dominion of sin, and will someday be removed from the very presence of sin. The gift of salvation is a display of the glory of God, and is testified of (although imperfectly) through the good works of the redeemed. The gift of salvation is received from God through personal faith in Jesus Christ alone. (John 3:16; 14:6; Romans 6:23; 8:1; 9:17-18; 10:9-13; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 2:8-10; 1 Peter 2:9)

The eternal security of a believer is guaranteed by God, because it is entirely a work of God. It is the purpose of God to glorify in Heaven those people whom He has saved, and His purposes cannot be thwarted. The salvation given by God to a believer in Jesus Christ cannot be lost. (John 6:37; 10:28-29; Romans 8:29-30; 1 Peter 1:5)

ECCLESIOLOGY, THE CHURCH:

The body of Christ is the invisible universal church, which includes all New Testament Saints in heaven and on earth. There is no example of a visible universal church given in Scripture, which precludes all national or denominational churches. The only church with authority to act on behalf of Christ is a local church. (Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:20; 5:23; Colossians 1:24-26)

A Local Church consists of a group of believers in Christ, who have been baptized upon a credible profession of faith, and who are organized together into a single local body to do the will of God. Members of a church are to be witnesses for Christ, make disciples for Christ, teach the doctrines of Christ, pray together, fellowship with one-another and break bread together in holy communion. (Acts 2:41-47; 13:1-3)

A church has two offices as outlined by Scripture: Pastor (also known as a Bishop, Overseer or Elder) and Deacon. A church is commanded to make disciples out of all who come to Christ, helping them grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8; 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9)

I believe there are two ordinances in the New Testament Church, Baptism (immersion in water) and the Lord's Supper. I believe these two ordinances are to be administered to all professing believers in Jesus Christ. (Acts 2:41,47; 8:37-38; 1 Corinthians 11:17-29)

The church is the body of Christ, and as such is to have no fellowship with the things of this world. A local church should have no fellowship with other churches, schools or organizations, who are disobedient to the teachings and authority of the Bible.

While civil government is ordained by God for our good, and Christians are commanded to obey civil government, a local church is not subservient to civil government. "We ought to obey God rather than men." (2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 2 Timothy 3:5; 1 Peter 1:16; 1 John 3:1-3; 2 John 10; Acts 5:29)

ESCHATOLOGY, FUTURE THINGS:

I believe in a imminent pretribulation rapture of the church, followed by a seven year tribulation and a literal 1000 year reign of Jesus Christ on Earth.