



Seeing What We
believe

Isa. 41:20

Isa. 41:20 **That they may see, and know**, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of **the LORD hath done this**, and **the Holy One of Israel hath created it.**

Mountain Springs Baptist Church

Introduction

Our theme this year is....

VISION 20/20
HIS VISION. OUR FOCUS.

In order to have a vision to go forward into the new year, we need to clearly see who we are, where we are doctrinally, and, consequently, know what we believe. Such a vision of ourselves should lead us to a greater unity of fellowship and fruitfulness.

For the next few weeks we will examine our church covenant, doctrine, constitution and by-laws. Two weeks, we began with looking at our function and fellowship as a church.

I. THE FACT OF OUR CHURCH

A. The Church Defined

Mt. 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock **I will build my church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

B. The Church Depicted

Psa. 22:22 I will declare thy name unto my brethren: **in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.**

Heb. 2:12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, **in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.**

II. THE FUNCTION OF OUR CHURCH

A. The Representation of the Church = THE LORD
JESUS CHRIST

B. The Responsibility of the Church = GLORIFY THE
LORD JESUS CHRIST

- ❖ Glorify the Lord through fruitfulness.
- ❖ Glorify the Lord through prayer:
- ❖ Glorify the Lord through His Word:
- ❖ Glorify the Lord through missions:

III. THE FELLOWSHIP OF OUR CHURCH

A. Unity from Diversity

B. Unity for Development

Last week, during our “Ministry Fair,” we saw a wonderful example of what a church should be according to the Scriptures – “...for the work of the ministry...” – Eph. 4:12.

Tonight, we focus our attention on our church covenant.

Church Covenant

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Our Savior and on the professions of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most joyfully enter into Covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this Church, in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality, to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations. We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions, to religiously educate our children, to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances, to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; To abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress, to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rule of our Savior to secure it without delay. We moreover, engage that when we remove from this place we will as soon as possible unite with another Church of like faith and practice, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word. As a Fundamental/Independent Bible believing Baptist church, we believe in a supernatural Bible, which tells of a supernatural Christ, Who had a supernatural birth, Who spoke supernatural words, Who performed supernatural miracles, Who lived a supernatural life, Who died a supernatural death, Who rose in supernatural splendor, Who intercedes as a supernatural glory to establish a supernatural kingdom on the earth.

covenant

4. In church affairs, a solemn agreement between the members of a church, that they will walk together according to the precepts of the gospel, in brotherly affection.

<http://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/covenant>

Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, **except they be agreed?**

Psa. 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* **for brethren to dwell together in unity!**

Our Commitment

❖ To our faith:

“Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Our Savior and on the professions of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost...”

❖ To our fellowship:

“...we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most joyfully enter into Covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.”

Our Conviction

❖ To spirituality:

“We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this Church, in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality, to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines...”

❖ To stewardship:

“...to give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations. We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions, to religiously educate our children, to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances...”

❖ To Separation:

“...to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; To abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

Our Concern

❖ For edification and encouragement:

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress, to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rule of our Savior to secure it without delay.

❖ For engagement and endurance:

We moreover, engage that when we remove from this place we will as soon as possible unite with another Church of like faith and practice, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Our Conscientiousness

❖ Regarding the Scriptures:

“As a Fundamental/Independent Bible believing Baptist church, we believe in a supernatural Bible...”

❖ Regarding the Savior:

“...which tells of a supernatural Christ, Who had a supernatural birth, Who spoke supernatural words, Who performed supernatural miracles, Who lived a supernatural life, Who died a supernatural death, Who rose in supernatural splendor, Who intercedes as a supernatural glory to establish a supernatural kingdom on the earth.”



Conclusion

Col. 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: **all things were created by him, and for him:**

17 And he is before all things, and **by him all things consist.**

18 And **he is the head of the body, the church:** who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; **that in all things he might have the preeminence.**

Eph. 4:3 **Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ...**