



Seeing What We
believe

1 Jn. 5:13, Isa. 26:3

1 Jn. 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that **ye may know that ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

True believers know and understand the depth of God's love. The more we know Him, have assurance of eternal life, and grow in grace, the more we will be at peace in the midst of troublesome times.

MOUNTAIN SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1

NAME AND PURPOSE

ARTICLE 2

STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

SECTION 2.01—STATEMENT OF FAITH

(A) The Holy Scriptures.

(B) Dispensationalism.

(C) The Godhead.

(D) The Person and Work of Christ.

(E) The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.

(F) The Depravity of Man.

(G) Salvation.

(H) The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers.

(I) The Church

(J) Separation.

(K) The Second Coming of Christ. We believe in that blessed hope, the personal, imminent return of Christ, Who will rapture His believers prior to the seven-year tribulation period. At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will personally and visibly return with His saints, to establish His earthly Messianic Kingdom, which was promised to the nation of Israel. (Ps. 89:3-4; Dan. 2:31-45; Zech. 14:4-11; 1 Thess. 1:10, 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev. 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6)

❖ The essence of prophecy is the fulfillment of God's Unconditional Covenants with Israel:

1. The Abrahamic Covenant, Gen. 17:7
2. The Palestinian Covenant, Gen. 13:15, Gen. 15:18
3. The Davidic Covenant, 2 Sam. 7:16, Psa. 89:3
4. The New Covenant – Jer. 31:31

- ❖ The Kingdoms in Prophecy, Dan. 2:31-45
- ❖ The Rapture, 1 Thess. 4:13-18, Titus 2:13, 1 Cor. 15:51-57, Rev. 3:10 (1 Thess. 5:9)
- ❖ The Millennium, Zech. 14:4-11, 1 Thess. 1:10, Isa. 26:20-21, Rev. 19:11-16
- ❖ Eternity, Rev. 20:1-6

Why go over the constitution and by-laws? Very simply, everyone needs to...

KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE

2 Tim. 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for **I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded** that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Rom. 14:5b "...Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."

Please remember that the topics we are covering on a Wednesday evening are brief summaries of a specific doctrine. We are only covering the main points, not going into minute details.

Tonight, our subject is...

THE ETERNAL STATE

What happens to a person after death?

Today most of the religious world believes in an immortal soul that lives on in some form. It is a shared teaching of Hinduism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam and Bahá'í, as well as of native and tribal religions throughout Africa, the Americas and elsewhere. Some say that soul will live forever in either a heaven or a hell. Others suppose that after death the soul will reanimate other life forms in an endless cycle of reincarnation. Most nonbelievers, of course, dispute the idea of a soul, being convinced that after death there is only nothingness.

<https://www.vision.org/what-does-the-bible-say-about-immortal-soul-149>

Our constitution and by-laws lists “The Eternal State” in three parts, as follows:

(L) The Eternal State.

(1) We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. (Matt. 25:46; John 5:28, 29; 11:25-26; Rev. 20:5-6, 12-13)

❖ The Bible teaches that there will be two resurrections for mankind:

1. The First Resurrection – for born-again believers.

The General Statement

Mt. 25:46 And these shall go away into **everlasting punishment**: but the righteous into **life eternal**.

Jn. 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which **all that are in the graves shall hear his voice**,
29 **And shall come forth**; they that have done good, unto **the resurrection of life**; and they that have done evil, unto **the resurrection of damnation**.

The Specific Statement

Jn. 11:25 Jesus said unto her, **I am the resurrection**, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

26 And whosoever liveth and believeth **in me shall never die**.
Believest thou this?

Rev 20:5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* **the first resurrection.**

6 Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. ...

2. The Second Resurrection = “the Resurrection of Damnation” (Jn. 5:29) = the Second Death, and is for unbelievers.

Rev 20:5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* **the first resurrection.**

6 Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. ...

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and **death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them**: and they were judged every man according to their works.

Rev. 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: **which is the second death.**

(2) We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 3:21; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 20:4-6)

❖ What happens when a person dies?

1. The soul and spirit leave the body and returns to God.

Eccl. 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and **the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.**

Gen. 35:18 And it came to pass, **as her soul was in departing, (for she died)** that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin.

Gen. 25:8 Then **Abraham gave up the ghost, and died** in a good old age, an old man, and full *of years*; and was gathered to his people.

Gen. 35:29 And **Isaac gave up the ghost, and died**, and was gathered unto his people, *being* old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

Luke 23:46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my **spirit**: and having said thus, **he gave up the ghost**.

2. When the soul and spirit return to God, two destinations await:

Luke 16:22 And it came to pass, that **the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;**

23 And **in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments,** and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

a. The redeemed go to be with the Lord.

Luke 23:43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, **To day shalt thou be with me** in paradise.

2 Cor. 5:8 We are confident, / say, and willing rather **to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.**

Phil. 1:23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire **to depart, and to be with Christ**; which is far better:

❖ The redeemed are changed at the return of Christ = the First Resurrection:

Phil. 3:21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be **fashioned like unto his glorious body**, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

1 Thess. 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and **the dead in Christ shall rise first**:

17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Rev. 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. **This *is* the first resurrection.**

6 **Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power**, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

b. The unbelievers go to hell. (See the following, #3)

(3) We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious punishment and torment in hell until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment. (Matt. 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Rev. 20:11-15)

Mt. 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand,
Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?

45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did *it* not to one of the least of these, ye did *it* not to me.

46 And these shall go away into **everlasting punishment**: but the righteous into life eternal.

Mark 9:43 And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into **hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:**

44 Where their worm dieth not, and **the fire is not quenched.**

45 And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into **hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:**

46 Where their worm dieth not, and **the fire is not quenched.**

47 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into **hell fire:**

48 Where their worm dieth not, and **the fire is not quenched.**

Luke 16:19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

23 And **in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments**, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that *would come* from thence.

2 Thess. 1:7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

8 **In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God**, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

9 Who shall be **punished with everlasting destruction** from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

Jude 1:6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath **reserved in everlasting chains** under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Rev. 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

14 And **death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.**

15 And **whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**

Summary

❖ The Creation was a fusion of the spiritual with the material. Material man, created for God's glory, received the "breath" of the spiritual/eternal – the immaterial – and man became a living soul.

Gen. 2:7 And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and **man became a living soul.**

1 Cor. 15:45 And so it is written, **The first man Adam was made a living soul**; the last Adam *was made* a quickening spirit.

- ❖ When Adam sinned, he died spiritually, and that spiritual death passed upon all men.

Rom. 5:12 Wherefore, as **by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin**; and so **death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned**:

- ❖ When man is born, his spirit needs to be reborn, made alive, “quickeneth” by the Holy Spirit.

Eph. 2:1 And you *hath* **he quickened, who were dead** in trespasses and sins;

1 Pet. 1:23 **Being born again**, not of corruptible seed, **but of incorruptible, by the word of God**, which **liveth** and abideth for ever.

Jn. 6:63 **It is the spirit that quickeneth**; the flesh profiteth nothing: **the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.**

❖ The redeemed, born-again believer's spirit, has been regenerated by God, born of God, and remains sinless within a corruptible body, called the "flesh."

1 Jn. 3:9 **Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.**

Rom. 7:18 For **I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing:** for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.

1 Pet. 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, **abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;**

- ❖ A believer, during a lifetime, encounters spiritual warfare within, between the soul and flesh.
- ❖ When a believer dies, the body goes to the grave while the soul and spirit goes to God.
- ❖ When a believer stands before God, the only issue for entrance into His presence will be whether or not one is righteous according to God's holy standards.

Eph. 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein **he hath made us accepted in the beloved.**

- ❖ God's provision of such righteousness is only available through the imputation of righteousness which is only provided to those who put faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jn. 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

1 Tim. 2:5 For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

- ❖ The imputation of righteousness is only available due to the Incarnation, which is the purpose of the virgin birth, sinless life of Christ, and His death, burial and resurrection = God's plan of salvation.
- ❖ To neglect God's plan is to reject Christ through unbelief. Such a "crime" is worthy of punishment justified for the offense = the sentence of eternal damnation.
- ❖ The decision for eternal damnation is made by the one who rejects Christ.

Conclusion

2 Cor. 5:1 For we know that **if our earthly house of *this* tabernacle were dissolved**, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, **eternal in the heavens.**

2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:

3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.

4 For we that are in *this* tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, **that mortality might be swallowed up of life.**

5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing *is* God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

6 **Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:**

7 (For **we walk by faith, not by sight:**)

8 We are confident, *I* say, and **willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.**