



# Seeing What We believe

Mark 12:24, Jn. 4:22



Mark 12:24 And Jesus answering said unto them,  
**Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures,** neither the power of God?

Jn. 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: **we know what we worship:** for salvation is of the Jews.



# **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.**

**(L) The Eternal State.**

**(M) The Personality of Satan.**

**(N) Creation.**

**(O) Civil Government.**

**(P) Human Sexuality**

**(Q) Family Relationships**

**(R) Divorce and remarriage.**



- (S) Abortion
- (T) Euthanasia
- (U) Love
- (V) Lawsuits Between Believers
- (W) Missions
- (X) Giving

## SECTION 2.02—AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH

### Introduction

Last week we covered SECTION 2.02—AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH. This evening we proceed to what is designated “SECTION 2.03—COVENANT.”



## **SECTION 2.03—COVENANT**

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of our Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now, in the presence of God-and this assembly, most solemnly and 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; and 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 personal devotions; to educate our children in the truth of God's Word; to seek the salvation of our families, acquaintances, and all others; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful to our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid backbiting, excessive anger, and all gossip or secretive meetings regarding personal issues of church members, church leadership or practice; to abstain from such worldly amusements as watching ungodly movies, gambling, rock music, and



dancing; to be free from all oath-bound secret societies and partnerships with unbelievers; to abstain from the abuse of drugs and the sale or use of pornography, intoxicating drink or tobacco in any form; 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 of speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready to secure reconciliation without delay.



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

#### I. MEMBERSHIP AFTER CONVERSION

**Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of our Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now, in the**



**presence of God-and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.**

**A. The Motive for Membership – “Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God...”**



1 Cor. 12:12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ.

13 For **by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body**, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and **have been all made to drink into one Spirit.**

14 For the body is not one member, but many.



- After salvation, the Holy Spirit works in a believer's heart to find a local church in order to learn the Scriptures and grow in grace:

Josh. 1:8 **This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.**

2 Pet. 3:18 **But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen.**



## B. The Method for Membership

**“...to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of our Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now, in the presence of God-and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.”**

**1. Salvation – “...to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on profession of our faith...”**

- Our church believes in a “regenerated membership.”



THE NEW BIRTH: We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is the new creation in Jesus Christ (John 3:3,5); that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God (Eph. 2:8,9); that the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, not by culture, not by character, nor by the will of man, but wholly and solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel (John 1:13; Titus 3:5); that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith in newness of life (Gal. 5:22-25).



JUSTIFICATION: We believe that the great Gospel which Christ secures to such as believe in Him provides justification; that justification declares the sinner righteous through the merits of Jesus Christ (Rom. 3:21-26) and this divine pardon is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, and that His righteousness is imputed unto us; that through justification we have peace with God (Rom. 5:1,9).



REPENTANCE AND FAITH: We believe that repentance and faith are solemn obligations and also inseparable graces wrought in our souls by the quickening Spirit of God; thereby, being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and being convinced of the way of *salvation* through Jesus Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time, we heartily receive *the Lord Jesus Christ and openly confess Him as our only and all-sufficient Saviour* (Jer. 8:6; Acts 17:30; 26:30).



2. Scriptural Baptism – “...having been baptized in the name of our Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost...”

Acts 2:41 Then **they that gladly received his word were baptized:** and the same day there were **added unto them** about three thousand souls.

Acts 2:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And **the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.**



- The validation for Scriptural baptism is connected to authority:

Mt. 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me** in heaven and in earth.

19 **Go ye therefore**, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.



- The authority for the Great Commission was from Jesus to the first church:

Mt. 21:24 And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you **by what authority** I do these things.

25 The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him?

26 But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet.

27 And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you **by what authority** I do these things.



- Paul questioned some believers in Ephesus regarding the authority of their baptism, and then, rebaptized them (or baptized them...Scripturally.)

Acts 19:3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

5 When they heard *this*, **they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.**



Acts 2:41 Then they that **gladly received his word** **were baptized**: and the same day there were **added unto them** about three thousand souls.

42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.



Acts 8:36 And as they went on *their* way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, *here is* water; **what doth hinder me to be baptized?**

37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, **I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**

38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.



- Scriptural baptism summary:
  - Proper candidate = a saved individual;
  - Proper motive = obedience to the Lord's command in joining a Scriptural church;
  - Proper mode = immersion picturing death, burial, and resurrection (Rom. 6:4);



Rom. 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

- Proper Administrator or Authority = a Scriptural church.

What is “alien baptism”?

**Alien baptism is any baptism that does not meet the four simple scriptural standards that we have just considered.** Alien baptism is any baptism that involves the wrong candidates, specifically baptism that



involves infants. A person sprinkled as a baby when it is impossible for that person to repent of his sin and believe the gospel is, according to the scriptures, unbaptized. Roman Catholics, Episcopalians, Methodists, and Presbyterians are some of the denominations which practice paedobaptism or baptism of children.

Alien baptism is any baptism that involves use of the wrong form such as sprinkling or pouring. Most non-Baptist denominations either sprinkle or pour for baptism.



**Alien baptism is any baptism that involves the wrong design or purpose.** Any baptism that is administered for the saving of the soul or as a means of grace or as a sacrament is alien baptism. Most denominations, either by direct teaching or by implication, teach that salvation is by baptism. This includes the Church of Christ, the Christian Church, and the Lutherans. The Roman Catholic “Catechism for Adults” by James Alberione (Vatican II edition) makes the following very clear statement about the Roman Catholic view of the design of baptism:



“What is the importance of baptism? Baptism confers the grace of justification...in baptism the followers of Christ truly become sons of God and sharers in the divine nature.”

**Alien baptism is any baptism that has the wrong administrator.** The wrong administrator refers to those who do not in some way meet the scriptural qualifications for a church. It would include churches who believe in salvation by works whether it is by keeping the sacraments by submitting to baptism or by some other work. **The wrong administrator would include churches that believe it is possible for a**



**Christian to lose his salvation. This of course includes Methodists, Pentecostals, and Freewill Baptists who are actually little more than immersing Methodists.**

The wrong administrator would include churches who believe it is possible for a Christian to live above sin in this world. This includes various so-called “holiness” groups such as the Nazarenes. The wrong administrator would include churches that deny the Trinity of the Godhead and thus do not baptize in the name of the Trinity. This would include the Oneness Pentecostals and various cult groups.

<http://www.victorybaptist.us/sermons/Should-a-Baptist-Church-Recognize-Alien-Baptism.pdf>



**3. Spiritual Submission – “...we do now, in the presence of God-and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.”**

- The last phrase of this paragraph is an acknowledgement of commitment, expressing a free will of choice that includes both seriousness and joy in uniting with our congregation.



- When the Holy Spirit moves a believer, one who is Scripturally baptized, to join our church, the result should be a sweet spirit of unity and bond of love.

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

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

13 Till we all come in **the unity of the faith**, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:



## Conclusion

Col. 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye.

14 And **above all these things *put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.***

15 And **let the peace of God rule in your hearts,** to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.



**16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom**; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

**17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.