



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

SECTION 2.02—AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH

SECTION 2.03—COVENANT

I. MEMBERSHIP AFTER CONVERSION

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

B. The Method for Membership

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

❖ Our church believes in a “regenerated membership.”

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

❖ 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);
- ✦ Proper Administrator or Authority = a Scriptural church.

What is “alien baptism”?

<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.”

Tonight, we continue looking at our church covenant. When joining our church, we enter into a solemn, mutual agreement to act together in harmony with the precepts of the Word of God.

II. MEMBERSHIP WITH COMMITMENT

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.

A. The Pursuit of Perfection – “We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love;”

Col. 3:14 And above all these things *put on* charity, which is **the bond of perfectness**.

Eph. 4:13 **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:**

- ❖ Individually, and collectively, we agree to focus upon submission and empowering of the Holy Spirit for the mutual benefit of a loving relationship for the glory of God.

❖ We recognize that each member is growing in grace, that each possess varying levels of spiritual maturity, and commit to assisting each other to be more like Christ.

Jas. 1:4 But let patience have *her* perfect work, **that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.**

1 Jn. 4:18 There is no fear in love; **but perfect love casteth out fear**: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

B. The Privilege of Power – “To strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and comfort;”

- We realize that our purpose is to glorify God, and without His spiritual power, we cannot advance individually, or collectively, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort.

Rom. 1:16 For **I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;** to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

1 Cor. 1:18 For **the preaching of the cross** is to them that perish foolishness; **but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.**

1 Cor. 2:5 That **your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.**

Eph. 6:10 Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.**

Col. 1:11 Strengthened with all might, **according to his glorious power**, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

2 Tim. 1:7 For **God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power**, and of love, and of a sound mind.

2 Pet. 1:3 **According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness**, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

C. The Promotion of Progress – “...**to promote its prosperity and spirituality;**”

❖ In order for our church to grow and to develop its ministry to each other, to the community and to the world, we must be committed spiritual growth.

1 Pet. 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, **that ye may grow thereby:**

Eph. 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, **may grow up into him in all things**, which is the head, *even* Christ:

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.

D. The Prudence of Purity – “...to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines;”

- ❖ As our congregation becomes more committed to spiritual principles, we will cultivate wisdom to be judicious in practical affairs to focus upon in our services:

worship:

1 Chron. 16:29 Give unto the LORD the glory *due* unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: **worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

Luke 4:8 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, **Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.**

ordinances

Prov. 22:28 **Remove not the ancient landmark,** which thy fathers have set.

Lev. 18:4 Ye shall do my judgments, and **keep mine ordinances,** to walk therein: I *am* the LORD your God.

1 Cor. 11:2 Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and **keep the ordinances**, as I delivered *them* to you.

discipline

Prov. 16:32 *He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and* **he that ruleth his spirit** than he that taketh a city.

Prov. 25:28 He that *hath* **no rule over his own spirit** is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.

Eccl. 10:10 If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct.

doctrines

Titus 1:9 **Holding fast the faithful word** as he hath been taught, **that he may be able by sound doctrine** both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

Titus 2:1 But speak thou the things which become **sound doctrine:**

E. The Placement of Priorities – “...**to give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin; and...**”

- Committed Christians put the Lord first, mate second, children third, then ministry, career, hobbies and various interests.
- Committed church members are faithful “24/7” to the Lord and His house: Bible reading, prayer, church attendance, giving, witnessing, etc.

Psa. 55:14 We took sweet counsel together, *and*
walked unto the house of God in company.

1 Tim. 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou **mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.**

1 Chron. 29:16 O LORD our God, all this store that we have prepared **to build thee an house** for thine holy name ***cometh* of thine hand, and *is* all thine own.**

Psa. 84:10 For a day in thy courts *is* better than a thousand. **I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.**

Psa. 92:13 Those that be **planted in the house of the LORD** shall flourish in the courts of our God.

F. The Preeminence of the Provisions – “...**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.**”

- ❖ Facebook Christianity must be supplanted by “Faith-book” fidelity = live daily like a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ!

❖ Committed church members “put their money where their mouth is.”

cheerfully

2 Cor. 9:7 Every man according **as he purposeth in his heart**, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for **God loveth a cheerful giver**.

regularly to the support of the ministry

1 Cor. 16:2 **Upon the first day of the week** let every one of you lay by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

the expenses of the church

Rom. 12:11 **Not slothful in business**; fervent in spirit;
serving the Lord;

Mal. 3:8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me.
But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes
and offerings.

9 Ye *are* cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me,
even this whole nation.

10 **Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that
there may be meat in mine house**, and prove me now
herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you
the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing,
that *there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

the relief of the poor

Prov. 19:17 **He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD;** and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Prov. 22:9 **He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed;** for **he giveth of his bread to the poor.**

Deut. 15:11 For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, **Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.**

1 Jn. 3:17 But whoso hath this world's good, and **seeth his brother have need**, and shutteth up his bowels *of compassion* from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

18 My little children, **let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.**

the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

Eccl. 11:1 **Cast thy bread upon the waters:** for thou shalt find it after many days.

Luke 6:38 **Give, and it shall be given unto you;** good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Phil. 4:15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.

16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.

17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things *which were sent* from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

19 But **my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**

Conclusion

1 Cor. 4:2 Moreover **it is required in stewards**, that a man **be found faithful**.

Be committed to God's program.

Read the Bible, pray, witness, give, attend.

2 Tim. 4:1 I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4 And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.