

The Bible Advocate

Lxxx 11 (Jept 20, 1948)

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is spreading in Europe and causes every Christian government to have a fearful heart. England and America love liberty, and teach their people what liberty is. They also give them the Holy Scripture, which is the Word of God. As it is written, "the Lord gave the word; great was the company of those that published it."

We are warned to "let every soul be subject unto the higher powers." For there is no power but of God; the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God; and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do thaat which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: for he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Rom. 13:1-4.

When anyone rises up against the government

to overthrow it, they are generally put in heavy punishment. They may even be banished from the land, just as Lucifer was cast out of heaven, never to return.

We also learn in Titus 3:1, "Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers. to obey magistrates to be ready to every good work." The God of Israel said the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. The British and the American laws are based on the commandments of God. Theirs are laws of liberty. -Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom He hath chosen for His own inheritance. Psa. 33:12. Dear reader, don't you know that Communism bars all its members from the spiritual work of the Lord? To be with that party you would be rejecting the kingdom of God. Is it any wonder that Paul said "for he must reign till he hath put all enemies under his feet"? 1 Cor. 15:25. Reader, Communism is not of God, therefore "choose ye this day whom ye will serve."

What The Church of God Believes

FOREWORD

This pamphlet is compiled and set forth as Articles of Belief of the Church of God (Seventh Day) in answer to those seeking such information.

Should the answer to these inquiries be left to an individual it would be difficult to give full information. Also there might be a tendency to insert personal ideas and opinions.

It is therefore deemed fitting and proper that we set forth the following Articles of Belief which were agreed upon by a convention of ministers, church officers, and leaders of the Church, as being a representative cross-section of the essential doctrine of the Church.

1. The Holy Bible, including the divisions commonly known as the Old Testament and the New Testament, is the divinely inspired Word of God. No other writing is so inspired. The Bible is infallible in teaching, and contains the complete will and revelation of God to man. 2 Peter 1:19-21; Isa. 45:23; Heb. 4:12; Matt. 24:35; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17.

2. The Supreme Diety of the universe is God. He is the Almighty Creator and Sustainer of the heaven, the earth, and all things therein. Acts. 17: 24-28; 14-15; Gen. 1:1; Rev. 14:7; Psu. 124:8; Neh. 9:6; Isa. 40:28; Isa. 44:24; Psu. 55:22.

3. Jesus of Nøzareth is the only begotten Son of God, conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He is the Christ or Messiah, sent from God to be our Saviour and Redeemer. John 3:16; 1 John 4:9; John 1:18; 6:65; 4:25, 26; Matt. 1:1825; 14:33; 16:16; Isa. 7:14; Luke 1:26-36; 2:6-32; 4:14-21; Acts 4:12; Titus 2:14.

4. The Holy Spirit (also called the Holy Ghost) is the Comforter promised by our Lord, who will abide in the hearts of those who diligently seek Him; and who will guide us into all Godly truths, and give us power to witness for Him; evidence of whose presence is manifest both in word and in "Fruit of the Spirit," and keeping the Commandments of God. John 14:15-19,26; 16:13; Luke 11: 9-13; Acts 1:8; Romans 5:5; Gal. 5:22-26; 1 Cor. 12:7-11.

⁵. Satan is "that old serpent, which is called the Devil;" he is the adversary of God and His people. Rev. 20:2; 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Cor. 11:14; Matt. 13:39; Eph. 6:10-12; Luke 10:18; John 8:44; Rev. 12:9; 2 Cor. 11:14, 15; Rev. 20:10.

6. Man was created a perfect being, but through disobedience, fell, bringing imperfection, death, and God's curse upon all mankind. Gen. 1:26-31; 3:8-20; 1 Cor. 15:21,22; Romans 5:12.

7. The Plan of Salvation was made by God the Father as the way of escape for man from the results of the fall. In this plan, God gave His Son Jesus, who paid the penalty for mankind, and made possible our salvation and redemption to eternal life. 2 Peter 3:9; 2 Thess. 2:13: John 3:16; 10:1,7; Acts 4:12; Romans 5:11; 1 Peter 1:18,19; 2:24; 1 John 2:2-4; Heb. 9:13,14; 9:28.

8. The blood of Christ was shed for the remission of sins, and the atonement was made on the Cross.

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att. 26:28; 20:28; Romans 5:6-13; 3:25; Luke 24: 7; Acts 10:43; Phil. 2:8-12; Col. 1:19-23; Titus 2:13,14; 1 Cor. 15:1-5.

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9. To secure the benfits of the Plan of Salvation, each individual must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and accept Him as his personal Savior, obey the terms of the Gospel, and pattern his life after the example of Christ. Acts 4:12; Luke 24: 47; Romans 10:6-10; 1 John 5:10-14; Romans 6: 16-18; 1 Peter 2:21; John 13:15.

10. The terms of the Gospel include faith in God, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, repentance and confession cf sin, including restitution where possible; baptism by immersion in water, signifying the burial of the old life of sin and the arising to a new life of obediance to God. Heb. 11:6; Romans 10:9, 10, 17; 6:1; 1 John 5:10-14; 1:9; Gal. 3:26, 27; Luke 13:3; 24:47; 19:8; : Acts 2:38; 3:19; Ephesians 4:21-25; Col. 2:12.

11. The Ten Commandments are the eternal, constitutional Law of God, and are to be observed by the people of God in this age. Ex. 20:2-17; James 2:9-10; 1 Cor. 7:19; Matt. 5:18; 19:16-23; 1 John 2:4; 3:4; John 12:50.

12. The fourth commandment enjoins the observnce of the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week, mmonly called Saturday. It is to be kept as saced and holy time, from sunset Friday until sunset Saturday. It is given to all the people of God as a memorial of His creation. Gen.2.2,3; Ex. 20:8-11; Isa. 58:13; Heb. 4:4-11; Luke 4:16; 23:56; Matt. 28: 1; Acts 13:14, 42, 44; 16:13; Mark 2:27, 28; Lev. 23:32; Mark 1:32.

13. The Lord's Supper is an ordinance given to the Church as a memorial of the death of Christ, and it should be observed annually on the beginning of the fourteenth of the Hebrew month Nisan. Unleavened bread and unfermented grape juice should be used in this service as emblems of the broken body and the shed blood of Christ. Lev. 23: 5, 27, 32; Matt. 26:26-29; Luke 22:7-21, 29, 30; 1 Cor. 11:1, 2, 18-31; 5:7; John 19:14, 15, 31.

14. The ordinance of feet washing was given by Jesus as an example for us, to teach humility, and is to be practiced in connection with the observance of the Lord's Supper John' 13; Luke 14:11; James 4:10; 1 Peter 2:21; 1 Tim. 5:9, 10.

15. Salvation is through faith in Christ, but for the purpose of co-operation in the proclamation of the Gospel, and the upholding of true Bible standards and doctrines, and for the fellowship of the believers, the Church should be organized in accordnce with the Bible plan. Acts 6:1-8; 1:23-26; 1 Cor. 12:27-30; Eph. 2:19,20; 4:10-17; 1 Tim. 5:17; 3:1-5; Heb.13:17; Titus 1:5-7.

16. The organization of the people of God should be known by the Bible name, The Church of God. Acts 20:28; Eph. 3:14,15; John 17:11,12; Dan.9:19; Jer. 15:16; 1 Cor.15:9; 1:2; 11:22; 1 Tim. 3:15;

17. The Bible plan of financial support for the Gospel work is the paying of the tithes and offerings, by the members of the church. The tithe is one-tenth part of the increase, and should be paid Es a part cf the Christian obligation. Offerings are also a part of the Christian obligation to the Lord, and should be given liberally as one is prospered of Him. Matt. 23:23; 1 Cor. 9:13,14; Lev. 27:30; Mal. 3:8-10.

18. The people of God and the followers of Christ in this age are to use for food those things which were given by God for that purpose, as distinguished from those things designated as unclean for human use. Gen. 7:1, 2; Lev. 11:4-20; 1 Tim. 4:5; Isa. 66:15-17.

19. The body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, and God's people chould be clean, refraining from any practice which would defile their bodies. Therefere, the smoking, chewing, or snuffing of tobacco; the drinking of intoxicating liquors, and the habitual use of narcotic drugs, are not to be practiced by the members of the Church of God. 1 Cor. 3:16-17; 2 Cor. 6:16-18; 7:1; 1 John 2:15-18; James 1:14,15; Gal. 5:19-21; Prov. 23:21,22,29-32; Eph. 5:18; 1 Tim. 3:3.

20. Since Christians are to love their enemies and work for the salvation of mankind, we stand opposed to carnal warfare. Ex. 20:13; Matt. 5:44; Remans 12:17-21; 2 Cor. 10:4; Eph. 5:12.

21. God's people are to pray to Him, through and in the name of Jesus, their Mediator and High Priest at the right hand of God in heaven. We believe in the efficacy of prayer in the name of Jesus for all our needs, and that answer will be given in accordance with God's will for us. 1 Tim. 2:8; Phil. 4:6; John 14:13-14; Heb. 7:25; 12:2; 4:14-16: Romans 8:34; 1 Tim. 2:5; 1 John 5:14; Luke 18: 1; Matt. 7:7-11; 6:5-9; James 1:6.

22. The Bible teaches both individual and collective prayer for the healing of the sick, and also the calling for the elders of the Church to anoint and pray for the sick and that God hears and answers the prayer of faith. James 5:13-16; 1:6; John 5:14,15; Pselms 103:1-3.

23. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, existed with the Father before His birth of the Virgin Mary; He was the Word spoken of in John 1:1, 2, and His birth of the Virgin Mary was the fulfillment of "Ard the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." John 1:1, 2, 14; 8:57, 58; Gen. 11:7; John 17: 5; Col. 1:16-18.

24. The Bible teaches that Jesus was crucified on the day of the week commorly known as Wednesday, and He was in the tomb three days and three nights, arising therefrom in the end of the Sabbath, thus fulfilling the prophecy of His sign as recorded in Matt. 12:39-40. Matt. 12:39; 28:1-8; Dan. 9:27; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4; Mark 16:1-6; 15:42; John 20:1-10; 19:14; Luke 24:1-8; 23:54-56. 25. At the second advent of Christ, He will cstab-

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lish His kingdom on the earth, and the redeemed will reign with Him on the earth for a period of one thousand years. This reign of Christ is a part of the Plan of Salvation, and will bring the plan to its completion. During this millennial reign, the throne of Christ will be at Jerusalem, and the law and teachings of the Lord will go forth from there. This is the "regeneration" (Matt. 19:28), and also the "times of restitution" (Acts 3:21). At the close of this Millennium, Christ will have "put all enemies under his feet," and will deliver up the Kingdcm to God. . . that God may be all in all. 1 Cor. 15: 24, 25, 28; Zech. 14:4, 9; Rev. 11:15; 20:4-6; 21: 1-5; 19:16; Matt. 25:34; 5:5; Psa. 37:11; Rev. 5:10; Dan. 7:27; Isa. 2:2-4; Micah 4:1-5.

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¹26. At the close of the Millennium, the restitution will be complete, and the earth will have been made new; the New Earth will be the eternal home of the saved. Rev. 21:1-8; Prov. 10:30; Isa. 45:8, 9.

27. The Kingdom is divided into three phases: (1) The Spiritual Kingdom of Grace, (2) The Millennial Reign of Christ, (3) The Eternal Kingdom of God. We are now in the Kingdom of Grace during which Christ reigns in the hearts of the believers, through the Holy Spirit. During the Millennium, Christ will reign on the throne of His glory, literally, and jointly, with the redeemed for one thousand years. Following the Millennium will be the third phase; The Eternal Kingdom of God, in which God will be all in all. Heb. 4:16; Matt. 25: 31; Rev. 20:6; 1 Cor. 15:24-28; Romans 12:2; Col. 1:12-14; 1 Peter 2:5,9; Acts 26:18. Please see scriptures under Articles 25 and 26.

28. The regathering of literal Israel to the land of Palestine, as portrayed in the prophecies, is in process of fulfillment, and is the sign of the soon coming of Christ. Jer. 31:9; Isa. 61:4; Luke 21:24. Ezek. 21:25-27; 37:21-28.

29. The personal and visible return of Christ to this earth will be to establish His kingdom. He will come in the clouds of heaven in the same manner as was His departure into heaven. Acts 1:10, 11; John 14:1-3; Rev. 1:7; Acts 3:20; Job 19: 25-27.

30. "Prophecy came not in old time by the will of man but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost," and it is given to us to study that we might watch, as we travel the highway of time, for the prophetic signboards, showing us where we are living in respect to the second coming of Christ. 2 Peter 1:19-21; Romans 15:4; Matthew 24; Psa. 119:105.

31. Considering the fulfilment of the signs in the pol tical, religious, physical, and social world, we believe that we are living in the time of the end, and that the second advent of Christ is very near. Luke 21:25; 17:26-31; Rev. 11:18; Matt. 24: 6, 7, 36-40; 2 Tim. 4:3, 4; 3:1-7, 13.

32. When man dies, he is unconscious, and in the grave awaits the ressurrection, at which time the righteous will receive immortality, and the wicked,

eternal death. Psa. 146:4; Eccl. 9:5, 6; 1 Cor. 15: 42-56; Job 17:13; Rev. 20: 11-15; Job 14:13-14.

33. The wicked dead will be resurrected at the end of the thousand-year reign of Christ, to receive final judgment, and be cast into the Lake of Fire which is the second death, and their complete destruction. Rev. 20:5, 11-15; Mal. 4:1.

34. The scriptures condemn worldliness, which includes the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life. Attendance at the movie theatres, pool halls, dances, and the excessive use of jewelry are of the world, and should be eradicated from the lives of the people of God. 1 John 2:15, 16; John 17:16; Roman 12:2; Gal. 5:17-26; 1 Peter 3:3, 4; 1 Tim. 2:9; Romans 8:12-14; Col. 3:1-10.

35. The days commonly known as Christmas, Lent, Easter, Good Friday, and Sunday are of Pagan origin, and are not Biblical; therefore should not be observed by members of the Church of God. (In . addition to the Scriptures, please see profane history and other reference books for origins of the above mentioned days.)

36. Since the Bible teaches that the people of God are to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we do not regard the foregoing Articles of Belief as a closed creed. Ministers and members of the Church are admonished to study the Bible. Suggested new light may be presented to the Ministerial Council for its consideration. Col. 1:9,10; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:15,16; 2 Peter 1:19-21; 3:18; John 5:39; James 1:5; 1 Peter 2:2; Isaiah 34:16.

A BETTER TOMORROW

The Christian lives not only for today; he anticipates a better tomorrow. 'His outlook is found in Paul's words: "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him, but God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit" (1 Cor. 2:9, 10).

Too many people quote the first part of this text and leave off the latter portion, failing to recognize that God has given to us in His Word a wonderful revelation of things to come. Of course, we cannot fully comprehend what God has in store for His children, but that which, we do receive makes us an optimistic people. The Bible is the vocabulary of the Spirit and if we would know the mind of God we must turn to the Book.

- We are living in a world of doubt and uncertainty. Men grope in darkness, not knowing whither their steps are tending. Great problems confront the nations. There is darkness and confusion, but the picture is not altogether dark. The conditions of fulfilled prophecy which we see about us indicate the dawn of a better day. L X X X 111 (December 12, 1949) The Bible Advocate

The first license to sell beer issued by a city to served within 300 feet of a church. a church was recently given by the Miami authorities to St. Mary's Catholic Church there. A nearby Protestant Church entered a protest, but the city attorney's office ruled that the license was legal under recent court decrees which allow the lent. He who has received one should speak of sale of beer and wine in restaurants where food is it.--Seneca

-Prophecy Monthly

He who has conferred a kindness should be si-

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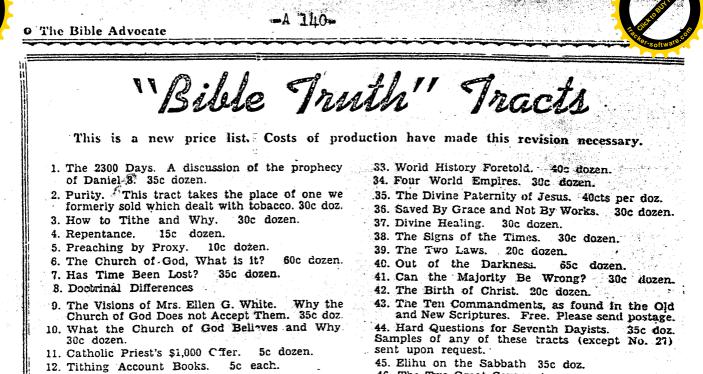
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