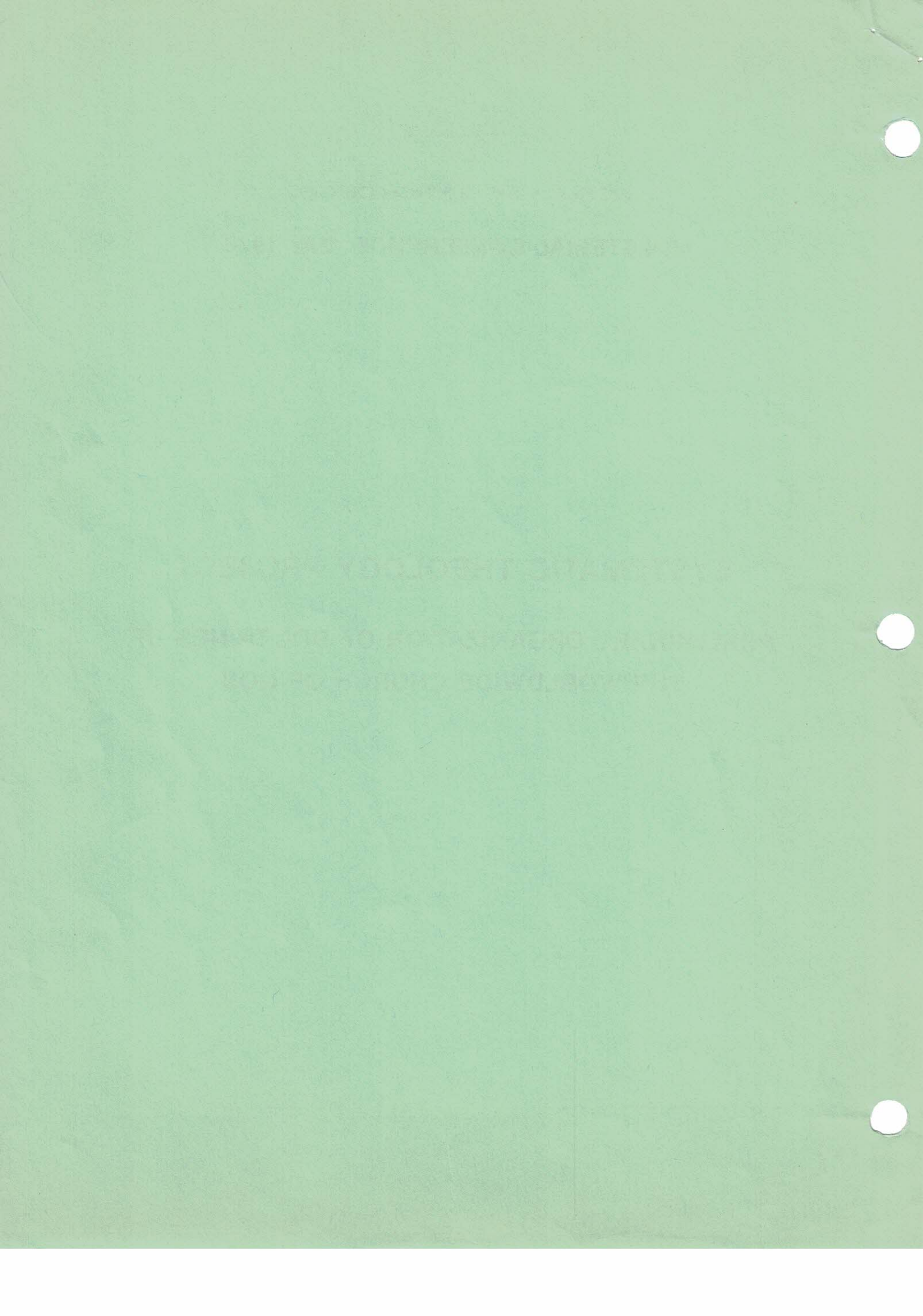


WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE MAY 1976

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY PROJECT

**PRELIMINARY ORGANIZATION OF DOCTRINES OF
THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD**



DOCTRINE

GOD

Definition: What Is Doctrine?

Importance of doctrine

How is doctrine determined

How doctrine can be changed

Organization of Doctrine

Fundamental doctrines ("Trunk-of-the-Tree")

Doctrines required for salvation

Doctrines required for church membership

Approach to Theology

GOD

Existence of God

Various proofs

Description of God

Nature of God

Names of God

Uniqueness of God

Character of God

Emotions of God

God as Creator

The God Family

God the Father

God's Throne/the Third Heaven

Description

Location

Occupants

Approachable by man through Christ

CHRIST

Names and Titles

Place in God Family

- "Son of God"
- Creator of all things
- God of the Old Testament

Description of Human Life

- "Son of Man"
- Historical reality
- "The Real Jesus"
- Old Testament Prophecies
- Virgin birth/early life

Purpose of Human Life

- Ministry
- Teachings/parables
- Miracles
- "Tempted like as we are"
- "Yet without sin"
- Founding of the church

Christ as Saviour

- Sacrifice/death
- Blood
- Body
- Reconciling Man to God

Crucifixion

Historical events

Meaning/symbolism

Resurrection

Importance as central core of Christianity

Historical events

Proof of Messiahship

Meaning/symbolism

Role Today

Description

Head of church

High Priest

Mediator between God and man

Elder Brother

Role in the Future

Soon coming King

To become Bridegroom of church

To prepare Kingdom for the Father

BIBLE

Purpose

Why written

Unity

Story flow

Inspiration

Historicity

How written

Position of writers

Modes of revelation

Biblical Text

Canonization

Transmission

Translation

Function

Intended use by man (II Tim 3:16)

Instruction/correction

Examples

Symbolism

Relationship to Knowledge from Other Sources

Supernatural Events/Miracles of the Bible

The creation of the heaven and the earth

Creation versus evolution

The Noahian flood

Miracles of the Old Testament

Miracles of the New Testament

MAN

Purpose

Why created

Why were you born

What is Man?

Man versus animal

Spirit-in-man

Physical birth

Physical death

Spiritual (2nd) death

Human Nature/Carnal Mind

Is it naturally evil?

What God created

How human mind perverted by Satan

Human Potential/Spiritual Mind

God's Plan for man

God's promise to man: Eternal inheritance of all things

God's attitude toward man: none should perish, all should be saved

SALVATION

Definition/Explanation of Salvation

Conversion

Calling and Election

Predestination

Faith

Definition

Types/Varieties of faith

Faith of Christ

Faith in Christ

Faith for conversion

Faith for healing

Biblical examples of faith

Belief

Repentance

Definition/description

God Grants

Versus worldly sorrow

Necessary for conversion

After conversion

Personal Acceptance of Jesus Christ as Saviour

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Baptisms

Water baptism

What baptism pictures/symbolizes

Requirements for baptism

Immersion

Part of conversion process

Baptism by the Holy Spirit

Baptism "with fire"

Laying on of Hands

Holy Spirit

Description

Necessary for conversion

Defines a Christian

How received

How used

Earnest of our spiritual life now

How lost

Blasphemy against

Grace

Sanctification

Justification

God's undeserved mercy

Will eventually be available to all: This is not the only day of salvation

Spiritual Blindness

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The True Gospel

Announcing the Kingdom of God

Preaching salvation through Christ

God's Mysteries

Man to be born of God as God

Christ in us

Announced/Preached by Christ

Government of God

Definition/description

Time frame

Ruler

Territory

Laws

Subjects

Millennium: Wonderful World Tomorrow (Thousand-Year Period)

New Heavens and New Earth

GOD'S LAW

Overview of Law

Definition

Description

Purpose of law

Abundant living
To teach what love is

The law of love: what is it?

Love as fulfillment of the law

The role of law in the life of a Christian

God's Commandments

The Ten Commandments
Old Testament commandments
New Testament commandments

Spirit of the law versus letter of the law

Codified law of Old Testament
Relationship of codified laws to eternal laws
Christ's teaching about law
Civil regulations versus/as eternal principles

Works of the law

Cannot justify
Necessary to prove faith

The perfect law of liberty: Christian liberty in law

The Weekly Sabbath

Definition/description

Necessary to observe

Old Testament
New Testament
Millennium

GOD'S LAW

Meaning

- Memorial of creation
- Memorial of exodus
- Foreshadows millennial rest

Proper Spirit for correct observance

- Attitudes
- Actions

The Annual Sabbaths/Festivals

Definition/description

Necessary to Observe

- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Millennium

Meaning/God's overall plan

How to Observe

- Passover
- Unleavened Bread
- Pentecost
- Feast of Trumpets
- Day of Atonement
- Feast of Tabernacles
- The Last Great Day

Statutes and Judgments

Definition/description

Old Testament civil code

Application today

Ordinances and Sacrificial System

Definition/description

Old Testament system

New Testament symbolism

Millennial reinstatement

SIN

Definition/Description

Various concepts of sin

- Hebrew/Greek words
- Commission: as breaking law
- Omission: as failure to do right
- Individual sin
- National sin

Nature of sin

- Results of sin
- Deceitfulness of sin
- Known to God
- Repugnant to God
- Punishment for sin

Overcoming Sin

Necessary to

Only through God and His Spirit

Forgiveness of Sin

How forgiven

Confession of sin to God

God's mercy

Remission of Sin

Unpardonable Sin

Willing versus willful sin

The Problem of Evil

Why evil: reason for its existence

How evil was created

How evil fits into God's Plan

Why the wicked seem to prosper

Eventual punishment of the wicked

THE BIBLICAL COVENANTS

Definition/Description

What is a covenant

Examples of covenants

Old Testament Covenants

God's Covenant with Abraham
National promises
Spiritual blessings for all humanity

God's Covenant with Israel

God's Covenants with individuals
Noah
David
etc.

New Covenant

Definition/description

How different from old

With whom made

When it comes into effect

With the church/Christians today

In the millennium
Israel & Judah
The gentile nations

THE CHURCH OF GOD

What is the Church

Definition of the word

Description of true Church

Name

Characteristics

Signs

Work

Appelations: royal priesthood, holy nations, etc.

Church Unity: one body, faith, spirit

Judgment is now for the Church

Church Government

Christ as head

Human beings as instruments

Church organization

New Testament times

Today

Church authority

The Ministry of the Church

Definition(servant)/description

Office of the ministry

Calling

Requirements for the ministry

Responsibilities of the ministers

"Ranks" of the ministry

Authority: binding and loosing

Worthy of honor and remuneration

Functions of the Ministry

Work of the ministry

Preaching the word

Attitude of the ministry

Approach: "Wise as serpents, harmless as doves"

Church discipline

Deacons

False ministers/teachers/prophets

Definition/description

How to handle

The Great Commission

Mission of church to the world

Preaching the gospel as a witness and a warning

Ambassador for Christ

Ministry of reconciliation

Responsibility of Church to Membership

Setting of doctrine

Feeding the flock

"Helpers of joy"

Responsibility of Membership to Church

Obedience

Support of ministry

Light to the world

Fellowship of the Brethren

Definition of fellowship

Requirements for membership in God's church

Reason for calling today

Necessity for church assembly services/fellowship

Interpersonal relations among brethren

Provoke to good works

Esteem each other

Go to your brother to solve personal problems, etc.

A Christian responsibility to be solid in doctrine
Not given to fables, ministering questions or blown about
by every wind of doctrine

Pure religion
Definition
Practice

Disfellowshipment

Definition/description

Reason for disfellowship

- Apostasy
- Heresy
- Sowing discord among brethren
- Root of bitterness
- Flagrant disobedience to God's law

Ministerial responsibility to disfellowship and refellowship

Why Christians should dismiss false teachers

How Christians should help weak brethren

God's Message to the Churches (Revelation 2-3)

Description

Various understandings

1. Historical
2. Historical-prophetic: church eras
3. Church application: all messages can apply to every period of God's church
4. Individual application: all messages can apply to every individual in God's church

Persecution of the Church

Biblical history

Prophecy for today

Reasons why persecutions occur

Ultimate Triumph of the Church

Old Testament prophecies

New Testament prophecies

Glorious future as Christ's bride

God's Financial System

Tithing: God's financial law
Before Moses
Israel's tithing system
Malachi's injunction
Jesus and tithing
Giving is commanded

The three uses of the tithe
First tithe: financing the work of God
Festival tithe
Assistance tithe

Offerings
In addition to tithes
Holy Day offerings
Special offerings

Proper use of God's tithe
Melchizedek
Levitical priesthood
God's church/ministry/work today

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IN CHRIST

The Christian's Personal Spiritual Life

Definition of a Christian

Brief description of a Christian

Love

- Toward God
- Toward brethren
- Toward all men
- Basic characteristic of a Christian

Prayer

- Purposes
- Methods
- Frequency
- Attitude of
- Boldly come before God's throne
- Types/varieties
- Praising God

Bible study

- Purpose
- Attitude
- Method

Fasting

- Purpose
- Method

Tithing/giving

- Expressing personal relationship with God

Holiness

The Characteristics of a Christian

The Mind of Christ

- Puts on the "new man"
- Puts on "the whole armour of God"

Encourages works of the Spirit

- Love, joy, peace, humility, meekness, gentleness, patience, etc.

Avoids works of the flesh
Vanity, pride, gossip, lusts, drunkenness, etc.

Righteous
Obedient to God's law
God's righteousness
Fights self-righteousness

Pure religion
Remembers the poor
Does not respect persons

Develops a sensitive conscience

Soundminded

Seeks wise counsel

Seeks wisdom, knowledge, instruction, correction from God

Seeks success/prosperity/achievement
Works hard six days a week
God hates poverty
God wants us to achieve and succeed

Determined attitude of mind
Use all ability/might to accomplish
Does not draw back
Zealous for the kingdom
Zealous for godly success

The Christians responsibility to abstain from paganism

A light to the world
Not antagonistic
Does not try to convert
Does not debate
Shows truth by good deeds
Unafraid

Spiritual gifts

The Christian Attitude Toward the World

Difference between "In" the world and "of" the world

Hates sin; has compassion for the sinner

Loss of worldly things as nothing
Compared with spiritual gain

What is worldliness?

Christian relationship to civil authorities

Respect for rulers
Involvement in politics
Voting
Military service

Race and ethnic relations

Biblical history/understanding
Proper attitude among God's people

The Purpose of Trials and Tribulation

Why Christian has them

A test

Builds faith

Builds character

The Purpose of God's Correction/Chastisement/Punishment

For individual Christians

For the church as a body

For the nations

Israel
Gentile

Humanity as a whole

Physical Health

God's desire for man to be healthy

Natural laws of health

Proper nutrition

Clean and unclean meats

Physical health
Antedates Moses: Noah

Alcohol: Why all right in moderation

Smoking: Why wrong

Drugs

Sickness

Public health ordinances

Sanitation

Quarantine

Divine Healing

Definition/description

Healing in the Old Testament

Healing in the church today

Anointing

Prayer

Relationship with doctors and medical assistance

Marriage and the Family

Physical institution designed by God

Divine meaning of marriage

Husband/wife relationship

The husband's responsibility to his wife

The wife's responsibility to her husband

Child rearing: the biblical principles

Love

Instruction

Discipline

The parents responsibility to their children

The children's responsibility to their parents

Divorce and remarriage

Sex

God's purpose and laws for sex

Proper uses: marital relations

Improper uses: outside marriage

- Fornication
- Adultery
- Homosexuality, etc.

Unlawful marriages

Role of Women

Creation of Eve/original reason for women

Women in the Old Testament

Sarah, Miriam, Deborah, etc.

Women in the New Testament

- Prophetess
- Deaconess
- No preaching allowed

Women in the church today

Biblical advice to women

- Wives
- Young women
- Widows

Personal Grooming and Decorum

Principle of modesty

Principles of quality, culture and taste

Fashions: clothing, hair styles, etc.

Make up

Music and the Arts

Biblical usage

Old Testament
Psalms

New Testament

Application today/future

PROPHECY

General

Definition/description

- Nature of prophecy
- Duality of prophecy
- Symbolism in prophecy

Biblical history: the prophets

Past fulfillment of prophecy

- Israel
- Judah
- Daniel 11

End-time in Prophecy

The Second Coming of Christ (the Surest Prophecy)

Events Immediately Preceding the Second Coming

- Matthew 24
- Book of Revelation
- Book of Daniel
- Time of man's greatest turmoil
- God's watchmen
- "Four horsemen of the apocalypse"
- Israel in prophecy
- Judah in prophecy
- The gentile nations in prophecy
- Day of the Lord
- Focus on Jerusalem

Abomination of desolation

The beast

Mark of the beast

The false prophet

Protection of God's people

The seven trumpets

The seven last plagues

Events Immediately Succeeding the Second Coming

Book of Ezekiel

Book of Zechariah

Satan bound, etc., etc.

Millennium — the 1000-Year Period

Definition/description: all men under God and His law

Israel

Judah

The nations (gentile)

The law shall go forth from Zion

Quality of life

Levitical Priesthood/Temple service

Events at end of millennium

Great White Throne Judgment — the Great Time of Salvation for the Masses and the Multitudes From All Time

The New Heavens and New Earth

Definition/description

The death of death

Eternal Kingdom of God

Continuous growth:

"Of the increase of His government...there shall be no end."

The Resurrections

Definition

Jesus Christ's resurrection

First resurrection

At Christ's return

Church of God becomes bride

The dead in Christ

Those Christians still alive

Resurrection to physical life

Full chance at salvation

Time period

Resurrection to lake of fire

Eternal Judgment

Definition

Now for God's church

Millennium

Great white throne for multitudes

Lake of fire

SPIRIT BEINGS

Description

Varieties

Angels

Description

Responsibilities

Limitations

Hierarchy

Satan

Description

History

Present activities

God of this world

Accuser of the brethren

Satan's "spirit" -- prince of the power of the air

Binding during millennium

Ultimate fate

Demons

Existence of

Description

Origin

Present activity

Possession of/influence on, humans

Exorcism

Christian Responsibility

Try the spirits according to God's law

Our fight is against wicked spirits in high places

TRADITIONAL "CHRISTIAN" DOCTRINES

Description/history

Commandments/traditions of men

Fall of man

Immortal soul

Heaven

Hell

Trinity

The gospel

Kingdom of God

Born again

Sunday

Christmas

Easter

Rapture

Predestination

Tongues

Turning grace in lawlessness

Infant baptism

Penance

CHURCH TRADITIONS AND PRACTICES

Church Organization

Ministry of the Church

Role

Organization

Ranks and Offices

Church Services

Functions

Format

Holy Day Observances

The Local Church Congregation

Structure

Activities

Concept of "the Work"

Media

Publications

