

What I Believe

Kathleen Dalton

A. The Scriptures:

I believe the Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments in their entirety, to be the verbally inspired Word of God, inerrant in the original writing, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of the world, and preserved by God throughout the ages to be the Divine and final authority for all faith and life.

B. The Godhead:

I believe in one God, Creator of all things, infinite, perfect, and eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate. I believe that He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died on the cross as a sacrifice sufficient for the sins of the world, rose bodily from the dead, and ascended into heaven where He serves as our Mediator and Intercessor with the Father until He returns at the end of this age.

I believe that the present ministry of the Holy Spirit is to reveal the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ; to convict individuals of sin; to regenerate the sinner who believes; and to indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for Godly living and service.

C. Salvation:

I believe that man was created in the image of God and that his subsequent willful sin resulted in physical and spiritual death and in the necessity of a new birth for salvation.

I believe that the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His Resurrection provide the only ground for salvation; that salvation is by God's grace alone, complete and eternal; and that only as one receives this gift of God through personal faith in Jesus Christ is one born of the Holy Spirit and made a child of God.

I believe that water baptism and communion are pictures of our salvation, ordinances to be observed by the church during the present age, but are in no way required by God for salvation.

D. The Church:

I believe that the Church universal is composed of all persons who have been born again through saving faith in Jesus Christ and have therefore become members of the Body of Christ of which He is the Head.

Furthermore, I believe that the local church should be the visible expression of Him, and should fulfill the purpose of the Church Universal in the world.

E. The Return of Jesus Christ and the Eternal State:

I believe in the imminent, bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ and that this expectation should encourage the believer to lead a godly and fruitful life.

I believe the bodily return of Jesus Christ is imminent in that the end times chain of events which precedes His return could be started at any moment by God Himself.

I believe that once that end time chain of events is begun, there will be seven last years of life as we know it on this earth. I believe that during the seven last years there will be catastrophes, earthquakes, fires, wars, murders, plagues, death, persecution of Christians and Jews, and signs in the heavens.

I believe that the rapture of the living and the dead saints occurs sometime after the mid-way mark of the last seven years, just after a world-wide earthquake.

I believe that Jesus Christ will return bodily to earth at the end of the last seven years, accompanied by the resurrected saints who had been previously raptured. I believe that at His return He institutes the Millenium, His literal 1,000-year reign as King of the earth.

I believe that at the end of the Millenium this present heavens and earth will disappear and be itself changed into the New Heaven and the New Earth, which will continue forever, peopled by those who had faith in the One, True God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) in their lifetimes.

I believe in the bodily resurrection of all the dead: of the believer to everlasting blessedness and eternal life in the presence of God, and of all unbelievers to judgment and everlasting punishment in Hell apart from God.