

**ASHWOOD GOSPEL CHAPEL** Cnr. Jordan Street & Yileen Court, Ashwood, Vic.

## **Statement of Beliefs and Practice.**

### **What We Believe.**

Here is a short statement with Bible references, of our more important beliefs.

The Bible is God's Word. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, without error in the original writings, accurately preserved for us in our mainstream translations, and absolutely binding upon us in all matters of faith and conduct (Matthew 24: 35; John 17: 17; 2Timothy 3: 16-17; 2Peter 1: 19-21)

There is one God who exists eternally on three equal Persons of the Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28: 19; John 10: 30; 2Corinthians 3: 18; 13: 14)

Our Lord Jesus Christ is true God and true Man, eternally the Son of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit, virgin born, and absolutely without sin (Matthew 1: 18-25; John: 1: 1-2; 16: 28; 1Timothy 2: 5; Hebrews 4: 15).

All other human beings are sinners because we partake of the consequences of the fall when Satan, an utterly evil personality, tempted our first parents, Adam, and Eve successfully; and because we actually do evil things. Therefore, unless the sinner comes to saving faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, he is bound for everlasting torment with Satan in Hell (Matthew 25: 46; Romans 3: 23; 5: 12; 6: 23; 2Corinthians 4: 4; 11: 14; 1Timothy 2: 13-14; Revelation 20: 10-15).

By virtue of Christ's death on the cross for the sin of the whole world and His resurrection from the dead, God forgives, reconciles to Himself, and gives everlasting life to everyone who repents of sin and exercises personal faith in Christ as Lord and Saviour (John 3: 16; Acts 20: 21; Romans 5: 8-10; 1Corinthians 15: 1-4; Ephesians 2: 8-9; 1John 2: 1-2).

The bible tells us that if we confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in our heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved, and further assures that our salvation is eternally secure. (Rom. 10:9, 8: 3-39, John 10:28-29b)

Christ lives in every Christian's life by the Holy Spirit from the moment he is born again into God's family, giving him "all power" to draw upon for daily life and Godliness, and for effective Christian service, so that he need seek no experience in addition to this (Matthew 28: 18; John 1: 13-14; 1Corinthians 6: 19-20; 12: 13; Ephesians 1:3; 3: 17-19; Colossians 2: 6, 9-10).

Our Lord Jesus Christ will return for all Christians alive or dead, changing them into his likeness and preparing them to share eternity with Him; later He will return with all Christians to set up His one-thousand-year Kingdom prior to the establishment of the New Heavens and New Earth (1Corinthians 15: 51-53; 1Thessalonians 4: 14-17; Philippians 3: 20-21; 1John 3: 2; Revelation 19: 11-16; 20: 1-5; 21: 1-4).

## **What we Practice**

This further short statement, also with references, lists our more important practices.

We offer fellowship in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ to all true believers in Him, who are already members of the “the church, which is His body”, and who are sound in essential doctrine and Godly in daily life, regardless of their denominational affiliation (Romans 15: 7; Galatians 3: 28; Ephesians 1:22-23; John 1:3-4).

We keep the ordinances of baptism by immersion in water upon profession of saving faith in our Lord Jesus Christ (we believe that all Christians should be baptized, but we do not make this a pre-requisite for church fellowship), and remembrance of Christ’s death by partaking weekly of bread and wine together (Luke 12: 14-20; Acts 2:41; 8:35-38; 20: 7; 1Corinthians 11: 23-29).

Our spiritual leadership is by elders who desire to serve in this way and are not otherwise disqualified by Scripture (Acts 20:28; 1Timothy 3: 1-13; Titus 1: 5-9).

Our church is independent in the sense that its own elders take full responsibility to God for all its activities, the spiritual well-being of its members and the quality and correctness of all that is said and done in its meetings; but, since Christians are all members of each other, it seeks the greatest possible fellowship with similar churches elsewhere (1Corinthians 12: 25-27; Ephesians 2: 19-22; 1Peter 5: 1-5; Revelation 2: 1, 5; 3: 7-11).

Any man may participate in our meetings when opportunity is given, provided he is gifted by our risen Lord Jesus, and led by the Holy Spirit so to do (Romans 12: 5-8; 1Corinthians 14: 29-31; Ephesians 3: 7; 4: 11-13).

Our church is bound together by love so that we act with positive loving-kindness toward each other and are intolerant of anything divisive, or which causes tensions between our members, whether it is manifest in public or in private (Matthew 18: 15-18; John 13: 35; 1Corinthians 13: 4-7; 1John 4: 11-12).

We aim to love and serve our fellow man, desiring above all else to bring him to saving faith in our Lord Jesus Christ; and we allow one another complete liberty of conscience as to where and with whom we do this class of work (Mark 16: 15; Acts 1: 8; 2Corinthians 5: 9-12; Colossians 1: 28; James 2: 8).

## **How To Join With Us**

Any true Christian is welcome to attend any of our fellowship meetings as a visitor. Anyone who wishes to become a permanent member of the congregation should be placed in contact with one of our elders.