



**BIBLE PREACHING FOR TODAY**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD & GOSPEL OF GOD

## **Statement of Faith**

***Bible Preaching for Today (also known as BP4T) is guided by the philosophy that in essentials there is unity, in nonessentials there is freedom, and in all things there is love.***

***BP4T affirms the Bible as the inspired Word of God and the sole basis for our beliefs. We believe the essentials of the faith include the deity of Jesus Christ, God's love demonstrated to us through the atoning sacrifice and resurrection of His Son, and the justification of sinners by grace through faith. We affirm the truths included in *The Apostles Creed*. A more specific statement detailing important doctrines of the faith may be found below:***

- We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.***
- We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human***

***authors. The Bible is the authoritative and inspired Word of God, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction.***

- ***We believe that human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled, and made new.***
- ***We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.***
- ***We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins.***
- ***We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and mission.***
- ***We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head.***

- ***There are two sacraments, or ordinances, established by Jesus Christ: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.***
  - ***BAPTISM is not a means of salvation, but the outward expression of the inward work of regeneration in the believer by the Triune God. It symbolizes the death of the believer to sin and his/her resurrection to new life in and with Christ Jesus. It also draws a visible picture of the way God cleanses the believer in Christ Jesus and washes away our sin. Finally, baptism identifies the participant with both Christ and His Church.***
  - ***THE LORD'S SUPPER, or Holy Communion, is not a means of salvation. It is a memorial of our redemption by Christ's death. It is also a symbol of the soul's feeding upon Christ. It is a sign of the communion that we have with Christ and with other believers. It is an actual proclamation, or preaching, of the Good News of the Christ who died for us.***
- ***We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the Gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ.***
- ***We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God continues to pour His grace on believers, giving them the ability to serve our neighbors for their good and to the glory of His Name.***

- ***We believe that the actual, personal, and bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ to the earth could happen at any time, and that this “Blessed Hope” instills hope, comfort, peace, strength, and energy for believers in regard to everyday living and mission.***
- ***We believe that the ministry of evangelism (sharing and proclaiming the message of salvation only possible by grace through faith in Jesus Christ) and discipleship (helping followers of Christ grow up into maturity in Christ) is a responsibility of all followers of Jesus Christ.***
- ***We believe God’s plan for human sexuality is to be expressed only within the context of marriage, that God created man and woman as unique biological persons made to complete each other. God instituted monogamous marriage between male and female as the foundation of the family and the basic structure of human society. For this reason, we believe that marriage is exclusively the union of one genetic male and one genetic female. We believe that a marriage before God as modeled in the Bible is different and distinct from legal, governmental marriage.***
- ***We believe that human life is sacred from conception to its natural end; and that we must have concern for the physical and spiritual needs of our fellow people during that whole lifespan.***