

Brandon Baptist Church

Statement of Faith

Article 1 – OF THE SCRIPTURES

Statement of Faith Topics

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3. Of the Fall of Man		12. Of the Harmony of the Law and the Gospel
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Of the Scriptures

We believe that

- We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction
- that it has God for its author, salvation for its end,
- and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter;
- that it reveals the principles, by which God now governs, and will ultimately judge us;
- and therefore, is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union,
- and the supreme standard, by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried

Key Questions

- Why do we believe that the Bible is God's word?
 - The Bible's attributes are unique and astonishing in:
 - Its Composition
 - Its Content
 - Its Purpose
 - Its Influence
 - Its Personal Impact
 - Its Truth Claim
- What authority does it have in your life?
 - All Authority!
 - To Make you Wise for Salvation
 - To Judge your Faith and Actions
 - To Establish "the true center of Christian Union"
 - To Divide Truth - the supreme standard, by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

Astonishing in its Composition

- **Josh McDowell:** "The uniqueness of the Bible is its complete unity. Sixty-six books written by forty different authors over nearly 2,000 years in three different languages on three different continents, by people in all sorts of different situations—and yet one main, overarching story: God's redemption of humanity."
- **Lee Strobel:** "Despite the span of time, geography, and culture that separates its writers, the Bible presents a consistent picture of human nature, sin, and salvation. This internal consistency is nothing short of miraculous, a clear indication of divine inspiration."

¹ Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, Hebrews 12:1-2

Astonishing in its Content

- **R.C. Sproul:** "Every word of Scripture is intentional, revealing the mind and will of God. From the smallest detail to the grandest narrative, God's purposeful revelation unfolds to unveil His character, His plan of redemption, and His sovereign rule over all things."

⁴ He also taught me, and said to me: "Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live. ⁵ Get wisdom! Get understanding! Proverbs 4:4-5

*¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for **doctrine**, for reproof, for **correction**, for **instruction in righteousness**, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

³⁰ 'Therefore you shall keep My ordinance, so that you do not commit any of these abominable customs which were committed before you, and that you do not defile yourselves by them: I am the LORD your God.' "

*¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² "Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: **You shall be holy**, for I the LORD your God am holy. Leviticus 18:30 - 19:2*

*⁴⁶ Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the **Christ** to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. Luke 24:46-47*

Astonishing in its Purpose

²⁹ Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever! Deuteronomy 5:29

³¹ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. John 20:31

*⁹ For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
As the waters cover the sea.¹⁰ “And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse,
Who shall stand as a banner to the people; Isaiah 11:9-10*

Astonishing in its Influence

- **Charles Colson:** "The Bible—banned, burned, beloved. More widely read, more frequently attacked than any other book in history. Generations of intellectuals have attempted to discredit it, dictators of every age have outlawed it and executed those who read it. Yet soldiers carry it into battle believing it more powerful than their weapons.“ – from his book, *Loving God*
- **Abraham Lincoln:** "In regard to this Great Book, I have but to say, it is the best gift God has given to man. All the good the Savior gave to the world was communicated through this book. But for it, we could not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man's welfare, here and hereafter, are to be found portrayed in it.“

⁵ *“Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess. ⁶ Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ Deuteronomy 4:5-6*

Astonishing in its Personal Impact

- **Martin Luther:** "The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me."

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn nor weep." For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law. Nehemiah 8:9

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Acts 2:37

¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4:12-13

Astonishing in its Truth Claim

- **Immanuel Kant:** "The Bible is the greatest benefit which the human race has ever experienced. Every attempt to belittle it is a crime against humanity."
- **Napoleon Bonaparte (attributed):** "The Bible is not a book, but also a living being, with an action, a power which invades everything that opposes its extension."

For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:21

¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

² "The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue. 2 Samuel 23:2

¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Matthew 5:18

¹ God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; Hebrews 1:1-2

¹⁸ For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; ¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. Revelation 22:18-19

What Authority does the Bible have in your life?

To Make you Wise for Salvation

- ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 3:15
- ²¹ Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.
²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. James 1:21-22
- ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. Romans 1:16

What Authority does the Bible have in your life?

To Judge your Faith and Actions

¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. Mark 16:16

³⁴ Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved. ³⁵ He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light. ³⁶ But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me. ³⁷ And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. ³⁸ But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe. ³⁹ You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. ⁴⁰ But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life. John 5:34-40

² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:2

⁴⁷ And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. ⁴⁸ He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. ⁴⁹ For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. ⁵⁰ And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.” John 12:47-50

What Authority does the Bible have in your life?

To Establish “the true center of Christian Union”

¹ Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ² fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Philippians 2:1-2

¹⁶ Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind. Philippians 3:16

¹¹ If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:11

³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. Ephesians 4:3-6

What Authority does the Bible have in your life?

To Divide Truth - the supreme standard, by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

¹ *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 1 John 4:1*

²⁰ *To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them. Isaiah 8:20*

²¹ *Test all things; hold fast what is good. 1 Thessalonians 5:21*

⁵ *Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified. 2 Corinthians 13:5*

¹¹ *These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. Acts 17:11*

³ *Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. Jude 1:3*

¹⁷ *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; Ephesians 6:17*

⁹ *And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, ¹¹ being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. Philippians 1:9-11*

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