

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be the DUNCAN PARK BAPTIST CHURCH.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of this church is to evangelize the lost at home and abroad, to edify Christians through the teaching of God's Word, to promote Godly worship, to defend "the faith once delivered unto the saints," and in everything, to glorify God.

ARTICLE III - DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

Paragraph A. Inspiration of Scripture.

We accept fully the writings of the Old and New Testaments as the very Word of God, verbally inspired in all parts and therefore wholly without error as originally given of God, altogether sufficient in themselves as our only infallible and authoritative rule of faith and practice (Matthew 5:18; John 10:35; 17:17; II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21).

Paragraph B. Trinity.

Section 1. God.

We believe in one God who is spirit, sovereign, infinite, holy, loving, all wise, and all powerful. He is self-existent and self-revealing in three distinct eternal persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Mark 12:29; John 4:24; 14:9; Psalm 135:6; 18:30; 147:5; Deuteronomy 33:27; Genesis 1:1; Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14).

Section 2. Jesus Christ.

We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, who without any change in His divine person, became man by the miracle of the virgin birth. He will continue forever as both true God and true man, one person with two natures. As man, He was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin; as the lamb of God, He suffered the full penalty of divine wrath, and died in our stead. After three days, He arose bodily from the grave and ascended into Heaven. There, as our Great High Priest, He appears before the face of God interceding for us (John 1:1; 3:16; 1:14; 1:29; 9:46; 20:25-28; Titus 2:13; Romans 9:5; Matthew 1:23; 20:28; I Corinthians 2:9; Revelation 22:16; Hebrews 4:15; 9:24; Isaiah 53:5,6; Galatians 3:13; I John 2:1).

Section 3. The Holy Spirit.

We believe the Holy Spirit is the divine agent in nature, revelation, and redemption. He convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment. He regenerates, indwells, baptizes, seals, and anoints all who become children of God through Christ. He further empowers, guides, teaches, sanctifies and fills believers who daily surrender to Him (Acts 5:3,4; Genesis 1:2; Psalm 104:30; I Corinthians 2:10; 6:19; 12:13; 6:11; II Corinthians 3:18; John 6:8-11; 14:26; 3:5; Ephesians 4:30; 3:16; Romans 8:14; John 14:26).

Paragraph C. Man.

We believe all men are, by nature and choice, sinful and lost. Adam was the direct creation of God, made in His image and not by process of evolution. By personal disobedience to God, Adam became a sinful creature and the father of a fallen race which is universally sinful in both nature and practice and thus alienated from the life and family of God. Under the righteous judgment and wrath of God, man has within himself no possible means of salvation (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7,18-24; 3:1-24; 5:3; Matthew 19:4; I Thessalonians 5:23; Ephesians 2:3; 4:18; Romans 3:23; 5:12; John 8:42-44).

Paragraph D. Salvation.

We believe salvation is the free gift of God, neither merited nor secured in part or in whole by any virtue or work of man, but received only by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. In Him all believers have as a present possession the gift of eternal life, making them children in the family of God and giving them deliverance and security from all condemnation (Romans 6:23; 4:4-5; 11:16; Titus 3:5-8; John 6:28,29; 5:24; 10:27-30; Acts 16:30-31; 4:12; Ephesians 2:8-10; I John 5:13; Galatians 3:26; II Peter 1:3).

Paragraph E. Works.

We believe in righteous living, not as a means of salvation in any sense, but as its proper evidence. Therefore, we should obey the Word of our Lord, seeking things which are above and walking as He walked. We should conscientiously accept our responsibility of bearing the Gospel to a lost world; remembering that every spiritual resource needed for life and godliness is available as we implement the great commission (I John 3:9-11; 4:19; 2:6; 5:4; Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:14; 3:8; II Corinthians 5:19; Romans 12:1-2).

Paragraph F. Satan.

We believe that Satan was originally created holy, but as a result of pride, he rebelled against God. He then became an utterly depraved leader of evil angels and spirits and the deceiver and god of this present world. His powers, though vast, are strictly limited by God. He was defeated and judged at the cross, and therefore his final doom is certain. We are able to resist and overcome him only in the armor of God, by the blood of the Lamb, and through the power of the Holy Spirit (Ezekiel 28:13-17; Isaiah 14:13-14; I Timothy 3:7; John 8:44; Matthew 4:1-11; 12:24-26; 25:41; Luke 22:31-32; Ephesians 6:12-18; II Corinthians 4:4; Job 1:1-22; Revelation 12:10; 20:10).

Paragraph G. The Rapture of the Church.

We believe the rapture is the blessed hope for which we should constantly watch, the time being unrevealed but always imminent. At this event, Christ will remove His church from the earth and then pour out the righteous judgments of God upon the unbelieving world in a period of time known as the tribulation (Titus 2:11-13; I Thessalonians 4:16-18; I Corinthians 15:24-28).

Paragraph H. The Second Coming of Christ.

We believe Christ will return in a body and will be visible. This event will follow the tribulation when Christ will descend with His church and establish a glorious and literal kingdom over all nations for a thousand years (Acts 1:8-11; Daniel 7:13-14; Revelation 19:14; 20:4-6; II Thessalonians 1:3-10).

Paragraph I. The Future Life, Bodily Resurrection and Eternal Judgment.

We believe the spirits of the saved at death go immediately to be with Christ in Heaven and their works shall be brought before the judgment seat of Christ for the determination of rewards which will take place at the time when Christ comes for His own. We believe the spirits of the unsaved at death descend immediately into Hades where they are kept under punishment until the final day of the Great White Throne Judgment; at which time their bodies will be raised from the grave, judged, and cast into the Lake of Fire, the place of final and everlasting punishment (Philippians 1:21-23; 3:20-21; II Corinthians 5:8; I Corinthians 15:35-58; 3:8-15; I John 3:2; Luke 16:19-31; Revelation 20:11-15; Mark 9:43-48; Jude 13).

Paragraph J. The Priesthood of Believers.

We believe Christ is our great high priest and through Him every born again person has direct access into God's presence without the need of any other intercessor. Every believer has the right and responsibility to study and interpret the Scriptures guided by the Holy Spirit and to offer up spiritual sacrifices (Hebrews 4:14; I Peter 2:5,9; I John 2:1).

Paragraph K. The Lordship of Jesus Christ.

We believe Jesus Christ alone is head of the body of Christ, into which all believers are baptized by the Holy Spirit. All members of this one spiritual body should assemble and identify themselves in local churches (Romans 10:9a; Ephesians 5:25; I Corinthians 12:12-13; Hebrews 10:25).

Paragraph L. The Local Church.

We believe a New Testament church is a local assembly of born again, baptized believers united in organization to keep New Testament ordinances, to meet together for worship, prayer, fellowship, and instruction, to present to the world a united testimony, and to actively engage in carrying out the great commission. We believe that each New Testament church is free to govern itself without ecclesiastical interference, though it should cooperate with other churches of like faith as the Holy Spirit leads. The local church is directly accountable to God. We also believe in the separation of church and state, with each having definite and distinct spheres of responsibility (Acts 2:41-47; 14:27; 20:17; Matthew 22:17-22; 28:19-20; I Corinthians 12:27; I Timothy 3:1-13; Hebrews 10:25).

Paragraph M. The Ordinances.

We believe Christ has commanded two ordinances: baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is by immersion of believers only, both identifying the believer with Christ and portraying the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Lord's Supper is the partaking of the bread and cup by the believer as a continuing memorial of the broken body and shed blood of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:20; Romans 6:3-4; I Corinthians 11:23-32).