

The Constitution Of Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church

*The purpose of this document is to provide our membership, their families and friends with a better understanding of the church's interpretation of the **Holy Scriptures** as provided through the leadership of the **Holy Spirit**.*

This Constitution has remained unchanged since its beginning in 1835

*when the church was constituted by Presbytery **Thomas Harmon and Goodwin Lycan**.*

The Constitution was reviewed and scriptural references added in 1982 by:

Pastor Herman Wellman

Deacon Dover Jackson

Deacon Don Toney

Deacon Charles Bolt.

First Article ARTICLE OF FAITH

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by
men divinely inspired

2 Timothy 3:16-17 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
perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works,
and is a perfect treasure of Heavenly instruction

2 Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast
known the holy scriptures, which are able to make
thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in
Christ Jesus.

that it has God for its author, salvation for its end
and

that without any mixture of error for its matter

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy
word is truth.

Romans 3:4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but
every man a liar; as it is written, That thou

mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

*that it reveals the principles by which
God will judge us*

***John 12:47** And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.*

***John 12:48** He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day,*

and therefore is and shall remain to the end of the world the true center of Christian union

***Philippians 3:16** Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing,*

***Ephesians 4:3** Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

***Ephesians 4:6** One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all,*

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

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

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

Second Article *The True God*

We believe that the Scriptures teach that there is one, and only one living and true God, an infinite intelligent Spirit whose name is Jehovah, the maker and supreme ruler of Heaven and earth

Hebrews 3:4 For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God,

Inexpressibly glorious in holiness

1 Peter 1:15-16 ¹⁵ *But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;* ¹⁶
Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy,

*and worthy of all possible honor, confidence
and love*

***Revelation 4:11** Thou art worthy, O Lord, to
receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast
created all things, and for thy pleasure they are
and were created,*

*that in the unity of the Godhead there are three
persons, the
Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost*

***Matthew 28:19-20** ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all
nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching
them to observe all things whatsoever I have
commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway,
even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

Equal in every divine perfection

***John 10:30** I and my Father are one.*

***John 14:26** But the Comforter, which is the Holy
Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he
shall teach you all things, and bring all things to
your remembrance, whatsoever*

I have said unto you.

1 Corinthians 2:10-11 ¹⁰ *But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.* ¹¹ *For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.*

And executing distinct, but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption

2 Corinthians 13:13-14 ¹³ *All the saints salute you.* ¹⁴ *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.*

Third Article

The Fall of Man

We believe the Scriptures teach that man was created in holiness under the law of his Maker

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Genesis 1:31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

but by voluntary transgression fell from that happy and holy state

Genesis 3:6-24 ⁶ And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. ⁷ And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. ⁸ And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. ⁹ And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? ¹⁰ And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid

myself. ¹¹ And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? ¹² And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. ¹³ And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. ¹⁴ And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. ¹⁶ Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. ¹⁷ And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; ¹⁸ Thorns also and thistles

shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; ¹⁹ In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. ²⁰ And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living. ²¹ Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them. ²² And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: ²³ Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. ²⁴ So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

in consequence of which all mankind are now
sinners

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

not by constraint, but choice

Isaiah 53:6 *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil, and therefore, under guilty condemnation to eternal ruin

Jeremiah 17:9 *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

Romans 3:23 *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

without defense or excuse

Romans 1:20 *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:*

Romans 3:19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

Fourth Article *The Way of Salvation*

We believe the Scriptures teach that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace

Ephesians 2:5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Hebrews 12:24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of Abel.*

who, by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon himself our nature, yet

without sin

Philippians 2:6-7 ⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

honored the divine law by his personal obedience

Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

and by his death made a full atonement for our sins

1 Corinthians 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

that, having, risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in Heaven

Colossians 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Colossians 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection he is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all sufficient Savior

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Fifth Article *Justification*

We believe that the Scriptures teach that the great gospel blessing

John 1:16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

Which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification

Acts 13:39 *And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.*

that justification includes the pardon of sin and promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness

Romans 5:9 *Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.*

that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood

Ephesians 1:7 *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*

Colossians 1:14 *In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*

by virtue of which faith, his perfect righteousness is deeply imputed to us of God

Romans 3:24 *Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:*

Romans 3:28 *Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.*

that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity

Romans 5:1-2 ¹ *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:* ² *By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

Sixth Article *The Freeness of Salvation*

We believe the Scriptures teach that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel

Revelation 22:17 *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

*that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them
by a cordial, penitent and obedient faith*

***Romans 16:26** But now is made manifest, and by
the scriptures of the prophets, according to the
commandment of the everlasting God, made
known to all nations for the obedience of faith:
and that nothing prevents the salvation of the
greatest sinner on earth but
his own determined depravity and voluntary
rejection of the Gospel*

***John 5:40** And ye will not come to me, that ye
might have life.*

*Which rejection involves him in an aggravated
condemnation*

***2 Thessalonians 1:8** In flaming fire taking
vengeance on them that know not God, and that
obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:*

***Seventh Article**
Grace in Regeneration*

We believe the Scriptures teach that, in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated or born again

***John 3:3** Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind

***2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension

by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth

***John 3:8** The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.*

so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel

1 John 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life

Ephesians 5:9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

Eighth Article *Repentance and Faith*

We believe the Scriptures teach that repentance and faith are sacred duties and also inseparable graces wrought in our Souls by the regenerating Spirit of God whereby, being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger and helplessness and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for mercy, at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest and King, and relying in him alone as the only and

all-sufficient Savior

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Ninth Article *God's Purpose of Grace*

We believe the Scriptures teach that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which He graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners

2 Timothy 1:8-9 ⁸ Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; ⁹ Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own

purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 ¹³ *But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:* ¹⁴ *Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable

Romans 11:32 *For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.*

Romans 11:36 *For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever.*

Amen.

that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God and active imitation of

His free mercy

1 Corinthians 1:26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.

1 Corinthians 1:31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

*that it encourages the use of means
in the highest degree*

2 Timothy 2:10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

*that it may be ascertained
by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel*

1 Thessalonians 1:4 Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

that it is the foundation of Christian assurance

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

Romans 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?

and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Hebrews 6:11 And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:

Tenth Article *Sanctification*

We believe the Scriptures teach that
Sanctification
is the process by which, according
to the will of God, we are made partakers
of his holiness

2 Corinthians 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

that it is a progressive work

Philippians 3:12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

That it is begun in regeneration

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

1 John 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter in the continued use of appointed means, especially, the Word of God,

*self-examination, self-denial,
watchfulness and prayer*

2 Corinthians 13:5 *Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?*

Eleventh Article *The Perseverance of Saints*

We believe the Scriptures teach that such only are real believers as endure unto the end and that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors, that a Special Providence watches over their welfare and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation

John 5:18 *Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.*

John 5:21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.

Twelfth Article

The Harmony of Law and The Gospel

We believe that the Scriptures teach that the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government

Romans 3:31 Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.

that it is holy, just and good

Romans 7:12 Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their love of sin

Romans 8:7-8 ⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God,

neither indeed can be. ⁸ So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

*to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law,
is one great end of the Gospel and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible Church*

***Romans 8:2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*

***Romans 8:4** That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

Thirteenth Article *A Gospel Church*

We believe that the Scriptures teach that a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Romans 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

Romans 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

1 Corinthians 12:12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:14 For the body is not one member, but many.

associated by Covenant
in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel

1 Corinthians 1:17-18 ¹⁷ For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. ¹⁸ For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

observing the ordinances of Christ

1 Corinthians 11:2 *Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.*

governed by his laws

Matthew 28:20 *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

*and exercising the gifts,
rights and privileges invested in them by his word*

Ephesians 4:7 *But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.*

that its only scriptural officers are Bishops or Pastors, and

Philippians 1:1 *Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:*

whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined
in Epistles to Timothy.

Fourteenth Article *Baptism and of The Lord's Supper*

We believe the Scriptures teach that
Christian Baptism is immersion in
water of a believer

Acts 8:36 And as they went on *their* way, they
came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said,
See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be
baptized?

Acts 8:39 And when they were come up out of the
water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip,
that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on
his way rejoicing.

into the name of the Father, and Son, and
Holy Ghost

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all
nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

*to shew forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem,
our faith in the Crucified, Buried and Risen
Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and
resurrection to a new life*

Romans 6:4 *Therefore we are buried with him by
baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised
up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even
so we also should walk in newness of life.*

*that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a Church
Relation and to the Lord's Supper*

Matthew 28:19 *Go ye therefore, and teach all
nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*

Matthew 28:20 *Teaching them to observe all
things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo,
I am with you alway, even unto the end of the
world. Amen.*

*in which the members of the Church, by the sacred
use of bread and wine are to commemorate
together the dying love of Christ*

Matthew 26:26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

Matthew 26:29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

1 Corinthians 11:26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

preceded always by solemn self examination

1 Corinthians 11:28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of *that* bread, and drink of *that* cup.

Fifteenth Article *Christian Sabbath*

We believe the Scriptures teach that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to Religious purposes by abstaining from all

secular labor and sinel recreation, by the devout observance of all the means of grace both private and public; and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God

Acts 20:7 And upon the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

Colossians 2:16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath *days*:

Hebrews 10:24-25 ²⁴ And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: ²⁵

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another. and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Sixteenth Article *Civil Government*

We believe that the Scriptures teach that

*Civil Government is of divine appointment
for the interest and good order of
human society*

Romans 13:1-7 ¹ *Let every soul be subject unto the
higher powers. For there is no power but of God:
the powers that be are ordained of God.* ²

*Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth
the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall
receive to themselves damnation.* ³ *For rulers are
not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt
thou then not be afraid of the power? do that
which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the
same:* ⁴ *For he is the minister of God to thee for
good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid;
for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the
minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon
him that doeth evil.* ⁵ *Wherefore ye must needs be
subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience
sake.* ⁶ *For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for
they are God's ministers, attending continually
upon this very thing.* ⁷ *Render therefore to all
their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom
to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to
whom honour.*

*and the magistrates
are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored
and obeyed*

Matthew 22:21 They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

Titus 3:1 Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,

*except, only, in things opposed to the will
of our Lord Jesus Christ*

Acts 4:18 And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

Acts 4:20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

Acts 5:29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

*who is the only Lord of the Conscience
and the Prince of the kings of the earth*

Revelation 19:16 And he hath on his vesture and
on his thigh a name written,
KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Seventeenth Article *The Righteous and The Wicked*

*We believe that the Scriptures teach that
there is a radical difference between the
righteous-and the wicked*

Malachi 3:18 Then shall ye return, and discern
between the righteous and the wicked, between
him that serveth God and him that
serveth him not.

Romans 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield
yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to
whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of
obedience unto righteousness?

*that such only as through faith are
justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and
sanctified by the Spirit of our God are
truly righteous in his esteem*

Romans 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written,
The just shall live by faith.

Romans 10:8-11 ⁸ But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; ⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

while all such as continue in
impenitence and unbelief are in his sight
wicked and under the curse

John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on Him.

And this distinction holds among men both in
and after death

John 8:21-24 ²¹ Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come. ²² Then said the Jews, Will he kill himself? because he saith, Whither I go, ye cannot come. ²³ And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world. ²⁴ I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.