



# My Theology

If you've gotten to this document, then you've probably read through the section of the “About Us” page on my website that gives an account of my spiritual beliefs. There are certain to be questions that need to be answered, and I will attempt to answer them in this document. However, if I fail to do so, please feel free to write to me by either snail mail or email using the information and links on the “Contact” page.

## The Basics

Now, I will rehash what you read on the site:

- 1) I believe **The Lord Our God is ONE**, and we have the obligation and responsibility to love Him with all our mind, heart, body, soul, and strength.
- 2) He sent **His only begotten SON**, Jesus Christ, by the Holy Spirit and through a virgin, to take on human life in human form, to experience life as we do, so He (Jesus) could become our permanent high priest in the order of **Melchizedek**. And that, as high priest, with this life experience and because of the perfect life He live and the suffering He endured, He can fully understand and empathize with our infirmities and intercedes constantly on our behalf to the Father, with pleading we can never comprehend.
- 3) God **IS**, and is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
- 4) **Salvation is a PROCESS**, and NOT a moment of inspiration or conviction. Going forward in Church to “give your heart to Jesus” and being dunked under water for baptism does NOT guarantee you a place in the Kingdom of God without continued faith and obedience to the spiritual law of God.
- 5) Finally, and ultimately, **I believe God said what He meant, and meant what He said**. Reading His Word (the bible) and through meditation and prayer, with minds and hearts open to hearing what He says to us, we can come to as complete an understanding as we need to live the lives He desires of us. Theological education can be very useful, but too much theological mumbo jumbo can get in the way of living a pure and holy life. If you want to know what God means and what He wants you to do (and **NOT** do) ask Him, and He will freely give to you all you need to be all you can, and should, be.

Basically, the above is my complete statement of beliefs, but by no means my complete list of beliefs. My beliefs extend far beyond what is written above, and now is the time to go over some of those points.

## Under the Surface

Here comes the answers to some of the more obvious questions. As you read through this information my hope is that you will begin to understand why I limit my statement of beliefs to the above five points, and don't go farther than that.

### *The Trinity*

One of the most asked questions, even from those who don't know that I have this web site is whether or not I hold to the teaching of a Triune God, often referred to as "The Trinity". The father and Son are obvious, but the Holy Spirit is another thing to consider. Is the Holy Spirit real? Yes, absolutely! Is the Holy Spirit a separate entity or manifestation of God? Most likely – yes. The bible makes reference to the Holy Spirit as a "HE", and also we are instructed to baptize in the name of the "Father, Son and Holy Spirit", which strongly indicates the accuracy of the Trinity Doctrine.

However, nowhere in the bible does it say that a belief in the Holy Spirit is a requirement of faith in God. All faith is pointed toward the son, Jesus, and is all to the glory of the Father. When it comes to allegiance and / or faithful dedication, the Holy Spirit is never the object or target. The Holy Spirit is that which gives instruction and leadership, as well as inspiration and comfort. Of course, that doesn't nullify the Trinity Doctrinal stance, but neither does it support it. In fact, the bible records that the Spirit has been given to Jesus, from the Father, and Jesus is allowed to give it to whomever He chooses. Also, we are instructed to pray to the Father, and told we do so in the name of Jesus. Again, the Holy Spirit is not the object of dedication or worship.

There are those who say the Holy Spirit is that part which is God Himself, and that may be true, but again, would not refute the Trinity Doctrine. However, it would lean in that general direction as not being a separate entity or manifestation of God.

I will answer the question this way; YES, I believe the Holy Spirit is real and that it dwells within us to lead us, instruct us, comfort us and strengthen us. However, even common teaching says it is Jesus living in us, and not just the Holy Spirit, which indicates that the Holy Spirit, of and by itself, does not enable Christian living.

It's a confusing and argumentative point of doctrine which I consider totally unnecessary to living life as God would have us live it, so I neither endorse, nor refute the Trinity Doctrine.

Hopefully, you haven't stopped reading at this point, and will continue to the next point of question.

### *Death Burial and Resurrection*

The death burial and resurrection of Christ, as well as His life ministry are the central thesis of the New Covenant, so there shouldn't be any question about these events in Christian thinking. Jesus was born of a virgin, who conceived through the Holy Spirit. All the prophesies about the coming Messiah were fulfilled in Him, and He is, no doubt, the "Only begotten Son of God". He was God, was with God, and took on human form. In human form there was still no darkness (sin) in Him at all, and He voluntarily gave His life (no one took it from Him) for the sins of the whole world; a sacrifice given once for all. It is through His blood that we are able to pass through the curtain (His body) and enter into the Holy of Holies (the very presence of the Mercy Seat) where God the Father, Himself is seated. We can approach the Mercy Seat in full assurance of faith, knowing our sins have been forgiven, as we've been washed

clean by the blood of Jesus which He shed on the cross. If any professing Christian believes any different than that, they're worshipping a false Christ, and are NOT who they say they are. Since this is what I consider to be a universal understanding among Christian professing denominations, I have not included it in my basic statement of beliefs.

### *Additional Considerations*

Many denominations have other theological material attached to their agenda, but I prefer to keep it simple. I stick to those things which I feel are not always 100% accepted, but which are undeniable and irrefutable, as well as unchangeable. Whatever else there may be that my readers may be interested in knowing is open to discussion and / or may be covered in one of the other articles / lessons found on this site.

I'm very certain of all the beliefs which compose my understanding, but I'm also a realist and know that at any given moment, God (through the Holy Spirit) may change my understanding. As a result of that premise, I keep an open mind pertaining to all matters outside the basic five statements of belief, and the matter concerning the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

One of the most controversial elements of belief is whether or not a person can lose their salvation, once they've confessed Jesus as their Savior, and have been baptized in accordance with biblical instruction. Even some ministers who say they believe it is possible to lose one's salvation, act and talk as if they don't believe that way at all. Personally, I believe a major reason for this duality between belief and conduct, is based on the fact that if their parishioners knew how they felt, either they'd go to church somewhere else, thereby causing that particular congregation to lose income, or they'd simply fire the minister who told them such a truth.

Here you can see what I consider to be one of the major problems with modern Christianity. As if it wasn't enough of a problem that we've split into a wide variety of conflicting denominations, we've also, in most cases, given the congregation the power to hold the minister to a specific theological concept, instead of the minister teaching the congregation the truth they need to hear. For any minister to step up in front of their congregation and tell them that something they've been believing all their lives is wrong, is literally ministerial suicide. Far be it for any minister to be bold enough to speak the truth, especially if it conflicts with the commonly held doctrinal stance of that particular denomination! In order to keep their jobs, their instruction must be in alignment with the doctrinal statements of their particular congregation and denomination, and the safest way to do that is to stick with the basics and don't be telling the people how they actually need to live or the particular things in this world they need to avoid. If they do say what needs to be avoided, it must fully support the accepted standing of the congregation at that time.

As a result of this dilemma within the Christian community, the truth is seldom taught as it should be. Few ministers dare to go into any depth with their instructions, and even fewer dare to press against the tide to straighten out peoples' thinking on any particular subject or point of truth. Most "lay Christians" today couldn't give a good explanation of their beliefs, even if their lives depended on it! Many, if put on trial for being Christians, would actually find it easy to be acquitted, and released back into society, having found no real concrete evidence that they were truly followers of Jesus Christ, except, of course, that they made the claim to be such.

Many of the mega churches, or independent churches, which are thought to be really dedicated to truth, are really homes for "inspirational ministry". They have ministers who constantly inspire their

members to do more, to serve, and even to sacrifice themselves for some causes, but when it comes to committing to live pure and holy lives, little instruction is given at all. Don't get me wrong, some are doing the best they can in working with a populace that is biblically illiterate, but because of this illiteracy, their jobs are becoming increasingly difficult. And please don't misunderstand me on another point; when it comes to inspiration, we all need as much as we can get, so that's a good thing for them to do. It's more a matter as Jesus said to the Pharisees about tithing. "This ought you to have done without neglecting the other."

The most important point of all, despite what people may think, is the issue of worldly holidays. My view is that they are a clear indicator of how the heart of Christian thinking beats today. We must listen to God, and not to the high-paid theologians and prominent ministers. God's word tells us very clearly what we can and can't and should and shouldn't do when it comes to worldly matters, and there is absolutely no room for error, and no excuse for not following biblical teaching on these subjects. Unfortunately, these issues are a big sore point with many Christians, and something they are not willing to look at with any degree of honesty. Even when I've talked to people who've asked me about these things, and they seem to understand and often agree with me, they turn right around and do what they know they shouldn't without giving it a second thought. To me, that is a clear indication of the wretched condition of Christianity today, and a good display of why so many people prefer to be called "Followers of Jesus" rather than use the term "Christian" in reference to themselves. However, many who take such a stance, are little different from those who don't think about it either way.

There are other points to consider, but it would take a book to include them all and give my explanation for each one. So, instead, I'll encourage you to go to my web site and search the "Lessons and Articles" page to find the information you may be seeking. Of course, you can also write to me, and I'll either answer you or send you the lesson or article I believe will answer your questions.

If you've gleaned nothing else from this article, I hope you'll understand this point. I'm not an all-knowing prophet, and I don't claim to have all the answers, but what I do have is a heart and mind that listen to God, and not to the preconceived doctrinal stances of modern Christian denominations. If you ask me a question, I will answer with the truth as I believe God has led me to understand, irregardless of whether or not it seems acceptable to others or to the Christian community as a whole.

The only one to whom I answer is God... period!

He is the only one who's judgment matters to me, and I have every intention of hearing Him say to me, "Well done, good and faithful servant".

I do hope that if this ministry site has helped you, or inspired you in some way, or if you'd just like to see it continue, that you will consider looking in the right hand column of the web site pages, and click on the PayPal Donate button, and gift at least \$10... more would be appreciated. Without donations, I pay all the expenses of this site, and will continue to do so unless God shows me He wants it shut down.

"Until we all come to the measure of the fullness of the stature of Christ."

**Nothing less will do...**