

Cornerstone Baptist Fellowship

Statement of Faith

Introduction.

We believe in the sovereignty of our Lord Jesus Christ over His Church. As God's Word tells us that Christ is the Head of the Church and the church including the believers of all times, is His Bride.

God is serious with us and we will strive to be serious with Him too.

According to His word, 1 Titus3:15; the Church is the pillar and foundation of the truth. For this matter the Word of God is the only teaching that we serve to the congregation, it shall be our final authority and we will adhere too.

We Believe

I. THE SCRIPTURES

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of God's revelation of Himself to man and He will preserve it until the end of the world. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation by faith in Christ Jesus for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. The divine inspiration extends equally and fully to all parts of the writings - historical, practical, doctrinal and prophetic -- as appeared in the original manuscripts. It reveals the principles by which God judges us; and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ.

Exodus 24:4; Deut. 4:1-2, 17-19; Joshua 8:34; Psalm 19:7-10, 119:11, 89. 105, 140; Isaiah 34:16. 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16, 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18, 22:19; Luke 21:33. 24:44-46; John 5:39, 16:13-15, 17:17; Acts 2:16. 17:11, Romans 14:4, 15:4. 16:25-26; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1 -2. 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.

II. GOD

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator who created heaven and earth in six days, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the Universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience.

The eternal God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

He has established His divine order in creation and deserves to be respected, for He is the head of all creation. He has determined the place of man and woman in His plan of creation and how man and woman relate to one another. Furthermore He has determined what the responsibilities are of each man or woman within His creation.

God will always keep His promises and His ways are higher than ours. So is His character unchangeable.

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A. God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the eternal purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men from generation to generation.

Genesis 1:1, 2:7; Exodus 3:14, 6:2-3, 15:11. 20:1; Leviticus 22:2. Deut. 6:4. 32:6; 1 Chron. 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 17:13, 43:3, 43:15, 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; Matthew 6:9, 7:11, 23:9, 28:19; Mark 1 :9- 11; John 4:24, 5:26, 15:6-13. 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; I Cor. 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephes.4:6; Col.1:15; 1 Tim. 1:17; Hebrews 11:6, 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John5:7 ;

B. God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ he was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself the infirmities, sorrows, demands and necessities of human nature and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator and also interceding for us, partaking of the nature of God and of man, and in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

Genesis 18:1; Psalm 2:7; 110:1; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 53: 1-10; Mat. 8:16-17; Luke 4:23; * 12; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11 :27; 14:33; 16:16, 27, 17:5; 27; 28:1-6, 19; Mark 1: 1; 3: II; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18, 29; 10:30, 38; II :25-27; 12:44-50; John 14:7-II, 16:15-16, 28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20: 1-20, 28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-247:55-56; 9:4-5, 20; Romans 1,3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3, 34; 10:4; I Corinthians 1 :30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8, 24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3: II; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5- 11, Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 I Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Titus 2:5-6; 3:16, Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; Titus 9:12-15, 24-28; 12:2; 13:8; I Peter 2:21-25; 3:22, I John 1 :7-9; 3:2; 4:14- 15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelations 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16

C. God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. He calls men to the Savior, and effects regeneration. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the assurance of God

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to bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service. The Spirit of truth will guide disciples in all the truth.

He is the one who restrains the evil one from destroying mankind completely.

John 16:13; Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51: II; 39:7; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18;3:16;4:1; 12:28 32;28:19;Mark 1:10.12; Luke 1:35;4:1, 18-19; 11:13; \2:12;24:49;John 4:24; 14:16-\1, 26; 15:26; 16:7 14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4, 38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39, 10:44; \3:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11, 14-16, 26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-1 I; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; I Thessalonians 5:19; 2 Thessalonians 2: 6-7; I Timothy 3:16; 4: I; 2 Timothy J:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8. 14; 2 Peter I:21; I John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation I:1 0; 22:17

D. The Headship of Christ

We believe that Christ is the Head of the Church , Col. 1: 17-18 and that He loves and nurtures the church for which He died. We believe also that the relationship of Christ and the Church is like the relationship between Husband and Wife, Eph. 5: 22-32. Christ nurtures the Church through His word, Jer. 15:16, John 15: 4-5, John 16:13 and Eph. 4: 11-16. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work

It is true that we have all been given the task in the Great Commission to teach one another to obey everything that He commanded, Mat. 28: 20.

We believe also that Christ prepared man through the Holy Spirit to teach and clarify to His flock the commandments that He would like us to obey. His word is then dispensed through Spirit filled man who have been blessed with wisdom by the Holy Spirit, in accordance with 1 Cor. 12: 1-31 and Eph 4:9-16

III. MAN

Man was created by the special act of God, in His own image, and is the crowning work of His creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man disbelieved and sinned against God and brought sin into the human race resulting in complete separation from God.. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence, which resulted in a curse of the entire creation; whereby his posterity inherits a nature of pride and selfishness inclined toward sin and as soon as they are capable of moral action become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness and value of human life is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore every man possesses dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

IV. SALVATION

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is given freely to all who believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, who by His own blood obtained eternal

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redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, sanctification, and glorification.

A. Regeneration

Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become a new creation in Christ Jesus. It includes the giving by God of a new heart, new spirit and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ to a person (Ez. 36:26) and putting the Holy Spirit in Him (Ez. 36:27; Eph. 2:8), conviction of sin, righteousness and judgement by the Holy Spirit, resulting in repentance toward God by the sinner and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

B. Repentance

Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace. Repentance is a genuine turning away from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ, His substitutionary atonement (He died in our place) and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Saviour. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer into a relationship of peace and favor with God. Then He will be our Father and we will be His children.

C. Regeneration is eternal

John 10:28-29, And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand.

Romans 8:35-39, Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

“For Your sake we are killed all day long;
We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”^[a]

³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We are children of God and when He appears, we shall be like Him, 1 John 3:2.

When He appears to fetch us, His followers, in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye and at the last trumpet, we shall all be changed, 1 Corinthians 15: 52.

D. Sanctification

Sanctification is the act, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart for God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through

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the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the entire life of the regenerated person, Ephesians 4: 13.

E. Glorification

Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed. This is our hope of glory, Christ in us, Colossians 1: 27.

1 Cor. 15: 50-58. Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1 :21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1 :68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14, 29; 3:3-21, 36; 5:24; 10:9, 28-29, 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31, 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3, 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8: 1-18; 29-39; 10:9- 10, 13, 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30;6:19-20; 15:10; 2Corinthians5:17-20;Galatians2:20; 3: 13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4: 11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Col 1 :9-22; 3:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8, 14; James2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11, Revelations3:20;21:1-22:5.

V. GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He draws sinners to Himself, forgiving, regenerating, sanctifying, and glorifying them. It is a glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, bring reproach on the cause of Christ, and temporal judgments on themselves, yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. Through His grace, God purifies for Himself a people that are his very own, Titus 2:14.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel8:4-7, 19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31; Matthew16: 18- 19; 21 :28-45; 24:22, 31; 25:34; Luke 1 :68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45, 65; 10:27-29, John 15:16; 17:6, 12, 17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7,26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24 28;Ephesians 1:4-23;2:1-10;3:1-11;. Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1;12; 2:10, 19; Hebrews 11 :39-12:2; 1 Peter 1 :2-5, 13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.

VI. The CHURCH

The New Testament speaks of the church as the body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, while Christ is the Head of the Church.

A local church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a body of true believers who are united by the Holy Spirit in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the two ordinances of Christ; the Lord's Supper and water Baptism. Committed to His teachings, exercising the gifts of the Spirit and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. In this we recognize the priesthood of all believers, 1 Peter 2:5-10. This church is a body utterly dependant on Christ and operating under His Lordship.

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The divine relationship between Jesus and the church finds its reflection in the relationship between husband and wife.

Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41A2, 47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27, 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Rom 1:7; I Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:19-22; 3:8- 11, 21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; I Timothy 3:1-15; 4: 14.

Elders / Pastors / Overseers/ Presbyters / Bishops

This church shall be governed supremely by the Lord Jesus Christ, making His Lordship known by His Spirit through the Bible. Under His guidance and through the participation of all members according to their gifts it shall do all it can to fulfill its mission as described above (1 Cor. 12:1-27).

Elders

Nurturing and caring for the spiritual welfare of its members is the mission and duty of the elders of the church (Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Peter 5: 1-4).

Elders are appointed.

The number of elders is set as the Holy Spirit leads us to understand but shall be at least two at any given time. Acts 20:28, tit 1:5

The function of elder is subject to the following:

The function of elder is open to brethren that fulfill the requirements of 1 Tim. 3: 1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.

Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

Titus 1: 6-9

An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless – not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

We understand the qualification regarding marriage to mean an elder be married, have children and he and his wife having never divorced and they should have been

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proven and tested 1 Tim 3 :10, 8 to be committed and reliable members of the church for approx. 6 months at least.

The duties of the elders consist of the tasks as described in the New Testament, i.e. the general oversight of the local church: to be an example for the church, to serve the church and nurture the spiritual welfare of the members, to organize and guard the purity of the teaching in the church and to stimulate consequently the realization of the purpose of the church.

They should handle anything entrusted to them with full confidentiality amongst themselves.

Jesus took the very nature of a servant, Philippians 2:7 and an Elder is called to have that nature too, Matthew 20: 25-28.

Deacons

In order to enable the Elders to fulfill their primary responsibilities in the areas of preaching and teaching the Word of God and of prayer, deacons shall handle the more practical aspects of all activities within the church.

In order to realize this there will be at least two deacons in the church.

As it is found necessary by the elders more deacons can be appointed.

The appointment of deacons will be subject to the same procedure as the appointing of the seven men filled by the Spirit and with wisdom, Acts 6.

Deacons in a coordinating and overseeing function of practical aspects related to the Great Commission shall be men.

1 Timothy 3:8-13

Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.

In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.

A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

The duty of the deacons is to assist the elders regarding the practical needs in the church.

VII. ORDENANCES

BAPTISM

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is the believer's declaration

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that we believe that we as new creations, died with Christ and that we will live through and in Him.

Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is an act of obedience whereby members of the body of Christ, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, proclaiming the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming. It is the responsibility of each Believer to examine themselves to ensure that they do not partake of the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner.

Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22: 19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16, 21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.

VII. CHURCH DISCIPLINE

That Church discipline fosters unity of the Spirit and preserves God's order in Church. The unity of the Spirit and God's order will be maintained and guided within the constraints of Mat. 18:15-17, 1 Corinthians 5: 1-13 and Titus 3:10 and this involves the whole church.

Matthew 18: 15-17

"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

1 Corinthians 5: 1-13

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that does not occur even among pagans: A man has his father's wife. And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have been filled with grief and have put out of your fellowship the man who did this?

Even though I am not physically present, I am with you in spirit. And I have already passed judgment on the one who did this, just as if I were present. When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord.

Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast- as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.

I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people -- not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even

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eat. What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man from among you."

Titus 3:10-11

Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that have nothing to do with him. You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

In Revelation chapter 3 we read how our Lord Jesus Christ confronts several churches with the fact that they didn't exercise appropriate church discipline.

IX. THE KINGDOM

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

As believers we ought to look and watch for the hope of glory.

Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 3:2; 4:8-10, 23; 12:25-28; 13: 1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32, 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Romans 5:17; 8:19; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 11:10, 16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Revelations 1:6, 9; 5: 10; 11:15; 21-22

X. LAST THINGS

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will come personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

The Lord will come to fetch His people and we will meet Him in the air. We will all be changed in the twinkling of an eye, 1Cor. 15: 50-58 , 1 Thess. 4: 13-18 and 2 Thess. 2: 1-12.

Isaiah 2:4; 11:9; Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9, 19:28; 24:27,30,36, 44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 2:40, 48; 16:19 26, 7:22-37; 21 :27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Romans 14: 10; 1 Corinthians 4:5, 15:24-28, 35 58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 1 : 5; 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:7; 2:1 17; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1, 8; Titus 2: 13; Hebrews 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Revelations 1: \8; 3:11;20:1H22:13.

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