An Affirmation of Christian (and preterist) belief

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God's sovereignty; the Scriptures; Creation

We believe:

That God is sovereign and does whatever he pleases.[1]

Nothing happens apart from his will.[2]

1. Ps 135:6; Dan 4:35.
2. Pr 16:33; 21:1; Mt 10:29; Isa 45:7; Lam 3:38; Gen 50:20; Ex 4:11; Job 1:21; 42:11; Ps 105:16; Jn 9:3; Ac 4:28.

That God speaks to us through the Old and New Testament Scriptures.[3]

These alone are our rule for life and faith.[4]

3. Lk 11:51; 24:44; Rom 3:2; 2Tim 3:15-16; 2Pet 1:20-21; 3:16; Mk 12:36; Ac 1:16; 28:25; Heb 3:7; 10:15.
4. 2Tim 3:16-17; Mk 7:9-13.

That the natural world everywhere displays God's wisdom and power.[5]

Genesis is in full agreement with the established discoveries of modern science:

The universe came from nothing; Earth is a uniquely habitable planet, prepared for Man;

Life's origin and progression necessitated divine intervention (new life-forms arose suddenly);

Man is altogether unique — in his origin, his capabilities, and his role in the world.[6]

5. Ps 19:1-6; Rom 1:20; Pr 8:27-31; Jer 10:12.
6. Genesis 1 – 2; Ps 8:3-8; 33:6, 9; 104:5ff.; Isa 45:18; Jer 10:12; Heb 11:3.

Jesus' divinity and the Trinity

We believe:

That Jesus Christ was truly God as well as man.[7]

7. Lk 1:35; 8:24-25 (cf. Ps 107:29); Jn 1:1-3, 14, 18; 5:17-23; 8:24, 28, 58-59 (cf. Ex 3:14; Isa 41:4; 43:10, 25; 45:18-19; 46:4; 51:12); 10:30-39; 12:41 (cf. Isa 6:1); 13:19; 17:5; 18:5-8; Mt 14:33; 28:9, 17; Lk 24:52; Jn 9:38; 20:28; Rom 9:5; 10:9-13; 1Cor 8:6; Php 2:6-11 (vss. 10-11, cf. Isa 45:23; Rom 14:11); Col 1:15-19; 2:9; Tit 2:13; Heb 1:3, 8-12; 2Pet 1:1; Rev 1:17 (cf. 1:8; 22:13; Isa 48:12); 5:13-14; 7:17; 22:3b.

That God is a Trinity comprising three distinct Persons who are One: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.[8]

8. Mt 28:19; 1Cor 12:4-6; 2Cor 13:14; Eph 4:4-6; 1Pet 1:2; Mt 3:16-17; Lk 1:35; Rom 8:9-11; Jude 1:20-21; Mt 12:32; Ac 13:2; 21:11; Eph 4:30.

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Faith, human inability, and God's initiative in salvation

We believe:

That a Christian is any person who, mindful of his sin, looks for God's mercy in Christ.[9]

He believes the message of the gospel:

Concerning all that God has accomplished for us in Christ.[10]

Concerning the free offer and promise of salvation for all who turn to him in faith.[11]

9. Jn 3:14-15; 1Tim 1:15-16.
10. Jn 20:31; Rom 10:8-9; 1Cor 1:23; 15:1-4; 2Cor 5:18-21; Gal 3:1-2.
11. Jn 3:16; Ac 2:38-41; Rom 1:16-17; 4:5, 23-24; 10:11-13; Gal 2:16; Psalm 130.

That God's grace in the gospel is sincerely and freely offered to all.[12]

Yet without God's working, sinners are wholly unable and unwilling to come to Christ for salvation — such is their bondage to sin and hostility toward him.[13]

But God sovereignly grants and imparts new birth, faith, and repentance to all whom he has chosen and predestined for eternal life.[14]

12. Mt 11:28-30; Jn 3:15-16; 6:40; Rom 1:16; 1Tim 1:16; Rev 22:17; Isa 45:22; Eze 18:23, 30-32; Mk 1:15; Ac 17:30; 1Tim 2:4-6.
13. Gen 6:5; Jer 17:9; Mt 15:19; Jn 5:40; 6:44, 65; 8:34; Rom 3:10-18; 8:7; Eph 2:1-3; Col 1:21.
14. Mt 11:27; 16:16-17; Jn 3:5-7; 6:36-37, 10:15b, 26-29; 12:39-40; Ac 13:48; 16:14; Rom 8:30; 9:10-18; Gal 1:15; Eph 1:4-5; 2:8; 2Tim 1:9; 2:25; cf. Rev 17:8.

Union with Christ; Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe:

That salvation and all other spiritual blessings come to us only as we are "in Christ" — joined to, and identified with him.[15]

Jesus died on the cross as our Substitute; our sins were transferred to him; he bore the punishment that we deserved.[16]

Additionally, his perfect obedience is credited to us, so that God can fully accept us.[17]

No matter how bad one's past has been, all who turn to him in faith are fully justified — acquitted and declared righteous.[18]

15. Eph 1:3-7, 11, 13.
16. Isa 53:5-6, 8, 10, 12; Rom 3:25; 2Cor 5:21a; 1Jn 2:2; 4:10; cf. Lev 1:4; 16:21.
17. Rom 5:17-19; 10:3-4; 2Cor 5:21b; Php 3:9.
18. Lk 18:13-14; Rom 4:5-8, 23-24; 1Tim 1:13-16; Isa 55:6-7.

That Baptism and the Lord's Supper depict the spiritual blessings that derive from union with Christ. As aids to faith, they are intended for those only who repent and look to Christ for their salvation.[19]

19. Mk 1:4-5; 16:16; Ac 2:41; 8:12, 37; 10:47; 18:8; 22:16; Gal 3:26-29; Col 2:12; 1Pet 3:21; 1Cor 11:27-29.

The New Covenant and God's law; the Sabbath

We believe:

That the Old (Mosaic) Covenant, finding fulfillment in the person and work of Christ, has been terminated and superseded by the New Covenant in his blood.[20]

Nevertheless, God's unchanging moral law remains the standard of holiness for Christians under the New Covenant.[21]

20. Mt 5:17; Col 2:16-17; Heb 10:1; Rom 7:1-4; 1Co 9:20; Gal 3:19, 23-25; Eph 2:15; Heb 8:13.
21. Mt 5:17-48; 22:37-40; Lk 10:25-28; 18:18-20; Rom 7:7-25; 13:8-10; 1Cor 9:21; Gal 5:14; Eph 6:1-3; Heb 8:10; Ps 119:97.

That the 4th (Sabbath) commandment is fulfilled in the spiritual rest Christ gives to his people as they cease from their own works and trust in him alone for salvation.[22]

22. Mt 11:28-29; Heb 4:9-11; Col 2:16-17; Rom 14:5.

Men and women

We believe:

That God has assigned different roles to men and women.[23]

Within the family, the husband (and father) is to exercise loving leadership, reflecting the headship of Christ over his Church.[24]

And in each local church, suitable men ("elders") are to lead and teach the congregation.[25]

23. Gen 1:27; 2:18; 3:16-19.
24. Eph 5:22-25; Col 3:18-19; 1Pet 3:1-7; Eph 6:4; 1Tim 3:4, 12; Gen 18:19.
25. Ac 14:23; 15:22; 20:17; 1Tim 3:1-7 (cf. 1Tim 2:11-15); 4:11-14; 5:17; Tit 1:5-9; 1Pet 5:1-3.

Miracles and supernatural revelation

We believe:

That the miracles, visions, and supernatural gifts present in the apostolic Church have served their foundational role and have largely (or entirely) ceased.[26]

26. Ac 2:4-11, 43; 3:6-10; 5:12; 6:8; 8:6-7; 10:46; 14:3; 19:6, 11-12; 1Cor 12:28; 2Cor 12:1, 12; Gal 3:5; Heb 2:3-4; 1Cor 13:8-12; 14:21-22.

Israel and the throne of David

We believe:

That Jesus was the one true and faithful Israelite.[27]

Through union with him, Christians also are Abraham's children and heirs of the gracious promises God made to him.[28]

27. Mt 2:15 (cf. Hos 11:1); 4:1-10 (cf. Dt 8:2-3); Jn 1:47, 51 (cf. Gen 28:12); 15:1 (cf. Ps 80:8; Jer 2:21); Gal 3:16; Isa 49:3.
28. Gen 12:2-3; 17:7; 22:17-18; Rom 2:28-29; 4:11-17; 15:8-12; Gal 3:6-9, 29; 4:28; 6:15-16; Eph 3:6; Php 3:3.

That when Jesus ascended into heaven, the Throne of David was fully restored.[29]
Furthermore, Old Testament prophecies concerning Israel's (or Jerusalem's) restoration are fulfilled, not in the modern state of Israel, but in the gospel gathering of God's elect people — Gentiles as well as Jews — into the Christian Church.[30]

29. Lk 1:32-33; Ac 2:29-36; Heb 1:3-13; Rev 1:5, 11:15; 12:5; cf. 2Sam 7:11-16; Psalms 2, 72, 110; Isa 9:6-7; 11:1-10; Jer 23:5-6; 30:9; 33:15; Eze 34:23-24; 37:24-25; Dan 7:13-14.
30. Ac 1:6; 3:24; 15:14-19 (cf. Am 9:11-12); Rom 9:24-26 and 1Pet 2:10 (cf. Hos 1:10; 2:23); Gal 4:26-27 (cf. Isa 54:1); 6:16; Rev 21:2, 9-10 (cf. Eph 5:25-32); 21:23-26 (cf. Isa 60:3, 11, 19).

Jesus' return; the coming of God's kingdom

We believe:
That the New Testament everywhere anticipates a first-century return of Christ.[31]
Jesus returned the same way he entered heaven — in the Shekinah, the Cloud of God's presence and glory.[32]
He returned as the "Son of Man" who (in his ascension) had been granted all authority.[33]
He returned in his Father's glory, as the divine Judge.[34]
That Jesus now reigned from heaven was "seen" in the public judgment of his enemies — Nero and the Jews — in 67-70 AD.[35]
At that time also, the dead in Hades were resurrected and judged.[36]

31. Mt 16:27-28; 24:34; Mk 8:38 – 9:1; Lk 21:31-32; Jn 21:22; 1Cor 1:7; Php 1:6; 4:5; 1Thes 4:15; 1Tim 6:14; Heb 10:25, 37; Jas 5:7-9; 1Pet 4:5, 7, 17; 1Jn 2:18, 28; Rev 1:1, 3, 7; 2:25; 3:11; 22:6-7, 10, 12, 20.
32. Lk 21:27; Ac 1:9-11.
33. Dan 7:13-14; Ps 2:6-9; 110:1-2.
34. Mt 16:27-28; 24:30; 26:64-65; 2Pet 1:16-18; Rev 1:7; Isa 19:1.
35. Mt 24:30; 26:64; 2Thes 2:8; Rev 1:7; 11:8; 13:18; Psalm 110.
36. 1Pet 4:5; Rev 1:18; 11:18; 20:11-15.

That John's vision of the new heaven and earth depicts the new, post-70 AD world order.[37]
Christ's kingdom — characterized by ever-increasing "righteousness" (2 Peter 3:13) — has arrived, in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies.[38]
All nations belong to Jesus as his reward and inheritance,[39] *and in time he will win them all to himself through the gospel.*[40]
His kingdom advances as people willingly submit to his rule through the gospel.[41]

37. Rev 21:1ff. cf. 1:1, 3; 22:6, 10.
38. Isa 65:17; 66:22; Ac 3:18-24; 1Pet 1:10-12; Isa 9:6-7; 11:1-10; Lk 1:32-33; Mk 9:1.
39. Ps 2:8; Dan 7:13-14; Mt 28:18.
40. Mt 28:18-20; Rom 4:13; Gal 3:8, 14; Gen 12:3; 22:18; Ps 22:27-28; 72:8-11, 17; 86:9; Isa 2:2-4; 49:6 (cf. Ac 13:47); Rev 15:4; 21:24; 22:2, 14-15, 17.
41. Mt 6:10; Mk 1:15; Lk 17:20-21 (KJV); Jn 3:3, 5; Ac 15:14-19; 28:23, 31; Rom 14:17; Col 1:13; Ps 2:12.

That rulers and governments everywhere ought to publicly acknowledge Jesus as Lord and govern in accordance with biblical principles.[42]

42. Php 2:9-11; Rev 1:5; Ps 2:10-12; 47:8-9; 82:1-8; Isa 49:7; 52:15; Dan 4:1-3; 6:26-27; 7:27 (NET, NIV); Rev 21:24.

Our posthumous destiny; Christ's eternal rule

We believe:

That for God's people, death has been effectively "abolished" (2 Timothy 1:10).[43]

Eternal life is our present possession.[44]

Indeed, with the Resurrection now past,[45] *Christians when they die are immediately clothed with their new spiritual bodies and enter heaven to dwell with Christ forever.*[46]

43. 2Tim 1:10; Jn 6:50; 8:51; 11:26.
44. Jn 3:36; 5:24; 6:47, 54; 1Jn 5:13.
45. Rev 1:18; 20:11-15; 22:6, 10.
46. 1Cor 15:44-50; 2Cor 5:1-10; 1Thes 4:17; Php 1:23; Heb 11:39-40.

That Jesus must remain a king-priest "forever" (Psalm 110:4), because the world itself will continue on for a very, very long time.[47]

His reign will continue, to all intents, forever.[48]

Sinners (on earth) will always need a priestly mediator to intercede for them.[49]

47. Ps 110:1-4; Heb 6:20; 7:17, 21, 24.
48. 2Sam 7:16; Ps 72:5; Isa 9:7; Dan 7:14; Lk 1:33; Rev 11:15.
49. Heb 7:25; Rom 8:34; 1Jn 2:1.