

PHIL HARBRIDGE

Statement of Faith/Doctrine

The Doctrine of Revelation and the Scriptures

I believe there are two categories of revelation that God has used consistently to disclose His love, will and presence to man. General revelation affords man the ideas of God as uncreated, Creator, Sustainer and Ruler¹. The second category of revelation is special revelation. I believe God unfolded this special revelation through a divinely governed process involving dreams, visions, miracles, direct communication, and finally in Jesus². Through Holy Spirit inspiration, God insured the preservation of revelation in the Bible. This continuing special revelation in the inner witness of the Holy Spirit is indispensable to spiritual growth³. I believe that since all Scripture is rooted in and inflated by God's Spirit⁴, Scripture is divinely inspired and authoritative⁵. The Bible is ethically authoritative, inerrant, infallible and verbally inspired⁶.

The Doctrine of God

I believe God is the supreme Creator and Sustainer of life⁷. I believe that although the Lord our God is one Lord, within the divine Being subsist three distinguishable Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit⁸. Each of these three Persons is one in essence and purpose, and each fulfills a specific role in the work of redemption. God is invisible⁹ and immutable, not only in character and essence, but also in His knowing, willing and decreeing¹⁰. God is a concrete reality, a living and active spirit¹¹. He was not created, and He relies on no other thing or person¹². God is active and personal in the finite realm of human history¹³. God is loyal to His covenant¹⁴, holy and ethically perfect¹⁵. Though just¹⁶, God is long-suffering and compassionate¹⁷. God's knowledge is complete and perfect¹⁸. God is both transcendent and immanent in being¹⁹, while His compassion prompts His redemptive activity.

The Doctrine of Christ

Isaiah 7:14 clearly states that a Messiah would be born from a virgin. In this fashion, the birth of Jesus Christ was accomplished through divine power²⁰. Jesus is the eternal second Person of the Trinity who existed with the Father before his incarnation²¹. In Him, the attributes of God²², and the attributes of man²³, united in one person without the nature of these being confused or altered²⁴. Jesus Christ made amends for the sin of humanity²⁵, by enduring a cruel death on a cross²⁶. Through Christ's life, atoning death and resurrection, believers now possess Christ's righteousness, which God has put to their account²⁷. Jesus was resurrected three days after his burial²⁸. After Jesus had met with the disciples and others, He was "lifted" into heaven as the disciples watched²⁹. Jesus Christ will return to the earth in the same way He left³⁰.

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

I believe it is the Holy Spirit who works conviction and regeneration within believers³¹, and in so doing, conveys certain skills, empowers, indwells, comforts, sanctifies and bestows gifts to the believer³². The Holy Spirit is eternal³³, and He was, and still is, involved in creation and the providential keeping and directing of it³⁴. The Holy Spirit inspired the Scriptures³⁵.

The Doctrine of Angels

I believe that angels are a mighty army of spiritual beings who are used by God as special agents to execute His providential purposes³⁶. Angels are active and personal in the lives of God's chosen³⁷. I believe angels are intelligent, powerful, "ministering spirits"³⁸ and are personal, immaterial and asexual beings that exist in great numbers³⁹. Angels were and are used to inform, command, comfort and strengthen⁴⁰. Satan was the highest created angel who disobeyed God and rejected His sovereignty⁴¹. Satan's angels or demons, who were deceived and are like-minded in sinfulness, continue to stalk and assault God's children⁴².

The Doctrine of Humanity

I believe that humanity is created in God's image⁴³. The human person is inherently dichotomous⁴⁴. In other words, humanity is a complex unity of material (body) and immaterial (soul) components⁴⁵. God creates each person as a union of soul and body beginning at conception⁴⁶. The human person was made not for isolation but for relation with other human beings, and with God⁴⁷. I believe in the ontological equality of the sexes⁴⁸, and yet I recognize a functional ordering of male and female within the marriage relationship⁴⁹. Because of humanity's sin and disobedience of God, the nature of humanity has been intellectually spiritually and morally marred⁵⁰. Humanity's restoration from a sinful nature is pending Christ's return⁵¹. Each person is able to make responsible decisions, which affect his or her destiny, both in this life, and beyond the grave⁵².

The Doctrine of Salvation

I believe that the impetus for salvation is rooted in God Himself, since humanity lacks the spiritual resources to come to God on his own⁵³, God offers a general call to all⁵⁴ and yet it may be resisted⁵⁵. I believe in each believer's experience there is a supernatural sequence of events, from effectual call, to conversion, then to regeneration, through justification, and finally to sanctification⁵⁶. The effectual call of the Spirit accomplishes the Father's saving purpose⁵⁷. Conversion is a 'turning from' sin and a 'turning to' Jesus Christ⁵⁸. Regeneration is the super-

natural work of the Holy Spirit, which is the commencement of a spiritual ripening or maturation that is confirmed by the fruit of the Spirit⁵⁹. Justification is a judicial act, imputing/crediting the righteousness of Christ to the believer⁶⁰. Sanctification is the divine act of bringing a person's moral condition into conformity with the judicial status established in justification. I believe that humankind has the choice of either salvation - a right relationship with God and eternal glory in heaven, or damnation - being separate from God and eternal torment in hell.

The Doctrine of the Church

I believe the Church is an organism - a family or body of sinners who have trusted Jesus as Lord and who have been baptized into the body of Christ⁶¹, and an organization - a gathered community of believers meeting at a given time and place who are organized with at least two offices (Overseers/Elders/Pastors & Deacons)⁶². I believe the local church is to be the arena in which the members, though diverse, commit to worshipping, fellowshiping and serving together, preserving genuine love and unity in Christ⁶³. The primary functions of the Church are four-fold, including:

- Evangelism - bringing the Gospel to all people,
- Edification - the use of each believer's spiritual gift,
- Worship - the praise and exaltation of God, and
- Social concern - the alleviating of social hurt and problems⁶⁴.

As part of its liturgy (or prescribed forms of worship), the church is to observe two ordinances: the Lord's Supper and baptism⁶⁵.

The Doctrine of Last Things

I believe Jesus Christ's return will be personal, physical, visible, sudden and glorious⁶⁶. Since the great tribulation period is a time of divine wrath on the ungodly, the institutional (formal, visible, organized) church will be raptured or caught up prior to this great catastrophe⁶⁷. The first resurrection⁶⁸ will include: Christ, church members, a remnant or great multitude, and finally tribulational martyrs and believers who will then reign with Christ⁶⁹. I believe in a literal 1000-year reign of Jesus Christ on this earth⁷⁰. The nation of Israel will undergo renewed prominence as the place of God's reign⁷¹. The millennium will begin with the resurrection of the just and end with a general resurrection of the just and the unjust to be judged⁷². This will establish the eternal age and a re-fellowship of God and creation⁷³.

Foot Notes

- ¹Psalms 19:1; Acts 14:15; Acts 14:16; Acts 17:24
²Dreams & visions- Matthew 1:20-24.
 Miracles - Mark 4:37-41; Matthew 9:2-8.
 Direct communication- Luke 2:26; Matthew 16:17.
 Jesus - Matthew 11:27; Luke 2:32; Acts 3:22
³Galatians 5:25
⁴II Timothy 3:16
⁵John 5:45-47, 17:17, 21:24
⁶Matthew 4:1-10, 7:12; Luke 19:46
⁷Acts 14:15-16
⁸Acts 5:3-4; I Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19-20
⁹John 1:18
¹⁰Psalms 102:26-27; James 1:17
¹¹Exodus 15:18; Deuteronomy 33:27;
 Joshua 3:14-17, 6:1-27
¹²Exodus 3:14-15; Job 38:24; Psalms 19:1
¹³Deuteronomy 33:27; Joshua 3:14-17, 6:1-27
¹⁴I John 4:8; Exodus 20:6; Numbers 14:18-19
¹⁵Exodus 15:11
¹⁶Deuteronomy 32:4
¹⁷Nehemiah 9:17; II Kings 13:23; Exodus 34:6
¹⁸Isaiah 42:9, 48:3
¹⁹Numbers 24:16
²⁰Luke 1:35
²¹Colossians 1:15-17; Matthew 11:27; Romans 1:3
²²Colossians 1:19
²³Hebrews 2:14
²⁴Attributes of God:
 Omniscience - Luke 5:21-22.
 Omnipotence - Matthew 8:23-27, 14:15-21.
 Attributes of man:
 Hunger - Matthew 4:2.
 Thirst - Matthew 25:35.
 Weariness - Matthew 8:24.
 Anger - Mark 3:5.
 Compassion - Matthew 9:36.
²⁵I Timothy 1:15; Galatians 4:4; Romans 8:3
²⁶John 19:33
²⁷II Corinthians 5:21
²⁸Mark 14:44-46; Luke 24:5-6, 36; John 21:1-14
²⁹Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9
³⁰Matthew 7:21; Mark 12:34; Acts 1:11
³¹John 16:8-11; Titus 3:5
³²Exodus 31:3-5; Zechariah 4:6;
 John 14:12, 16-17, 26; Acts 1:8,
 Romans 8:1-17,26-27, 12:6-8; I Peter 4:11
³³Hebrews 9:14
³⁴Genesis 1:2; Job 26:13; Psalms 104:30
³⁵II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21
³⁶Deuteronomy 33:2; Exodus 14:19;
 Numbers 20:16
³⁷Exodus 23:20,23
³⁸I Peter 1:12; II Peter 2:11;
 "ministering spirits" - Hebrews 1:14
³⁹Luke 2:13; Matthew 22:30, 26:53
⁴⁰Inform - Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:20-21.
 Command - Matthew 2:13.
 Comfort - Matthew 4:11.
 Strengthen- Luke 22:43.
⁴¹II Peter 2:4; Jude 6
⁴²I Peter 5:8; Mark 1:23-24, 5:2-5; II Peter 2:4
⁴³Zechariah 2:8; Isaiah 43:4; Genesis 1:26;
 I Corinthians 11:7
⁴⁴Matthew 10:28; Luke 12:5; Psalms 63:1;
 Luke 23:46; Genesis 2:7; Deuteronomy 6:5
⁴⁵Ecclesiastes 12:7, 3:19-21
⁴⁶Genesis 1:28, 2:21-23; Psalms 139:13-16
⁴⁷Genesis 2:18
⁴⁸Genesis 1:27, 2:18
⁴⁹Genesis 2:21-23; I Timothy 2:1-15
⁵⁰Romans 12:2; Colossians 3:10; Ephesians 4:22-24
⁵¹I John 3:2
⁵²John 17:17
⁵³Ephesians 2:8-9
⁵⁴Matthew 11:28-30; Luke 24:46-47
⁵⁵Matthew 23:37
⁵⁶Call- I Corinthians 15:10; Romans 1:6-7;
 Galatians 1:6.
 Conversion - Ephesians 4:1, 5:14;
 I Thessalonians 4:7.
 Regeneration - Titus 3:5; II Corinthians 5:17;
 John 3:5-8.
 Justification - Romans 3:26, 4:5.
⁵⁷Luke 14:21-23
⁵⁸Ezekiel 18:30-32; Ephesians 5:14; Acts 3:19
⁵⁹Titus 3:5; Galatians 5:19-23
⁶⁰Romans 4:5, 3:26
⁶¹I Peter 5:10; Ephesians 1:15;
 I Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 1:22-23
⁶²I Peter 5:1; I Timothy 3
⁶³I Corinthians 12:12-31, 11:17-19; Ephesians 4:4-6
⁶⁴Evangelism - Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8.
 Edification - Ephesians 4:12; I Corinthians 14:4-5.
 Worship - I Corinthians 14:15-17; Hebrews 10:25.
 Social Concern - Matthew 25:31-46; James 1:27
⁶⁵I Corinthians 11:2, 24-25; Matthew 28:19-20
⁶⁶John 14:2; Hebrews 9:28; Acts 1:11;
 I Thessalonians 1:7, 4:16; Revelation 1:7;
 Matthew 24:30,40; I Corinthians 15:2
⁶⁷I Thessalonians 1:10, 2:3-4; Revelation 3:10
⁶⁸Revelation 20:6
⁶⁹Christ - I Corinthians 15:20.
 Church - Revelation 3:10.
 Remnant - Revelation 7:9-17, 11:12-13;
 Matthew 24:31.
 Martyrs - I Thessalonians 4:17; Revelation 20:4.
⁷⁰Revelation 20:5-6
⁷¹Revelation 19:15,21
⁷²Revelation 20:6-15
⁷³Revelation 21:1-2