

# Constitution and Bylaws of Living Stones Church

691 Old Highway 48  
Clarksville, TN 37040  
livingstoneschurch.info  
EIN: 83-2651200

## Constitution

### Article I Name

The name of this church shall be Living Stones Church, based on 1 Peter 2:5 of the Bible.

### Article II Purpose

Living Stones Church is organized exclusively for religious purposes within section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code

### Article III Mission

The mission of Living Stones Church is to be disciples and make disciples of Jesus by loving the Lord with all our hearts, souls, and minds and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

### Article IV Beliefs

Each belief is founded and grounded on Scripture. The corresponding scriptures are listed in Appendix A.

**1. Bible**

The Bible is the Word of God and complete Truth. All of our beliefs are founded and grounded on Scripture.

**2. GOD**

We believe in God, as the one and only true God. He is the triune God, who exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**3. Kingdom of GOD**

- **Eternal**

God and His Kingdom are eternal.

- **Creation**

He created the whole earth and universe, and He created people out of a special love and purpose. We are created in the image of God to multiply and spread His glory.

- **Good vs. Evil**  
God is love, and He desires a love relationship with us. Real love is only given by choice. God's adversary, the devil, is the source of evil. Evil battles the truth of God's love and provision and seeks to separate us from God – but is NO MATCH for the power of GOD.
- **Sin-Death-Separation from God**  
Sin, our choices against God's holiness, is what separates us from God. We have all fallen short of God's glory and suffer because of our eternal separation.
- **Salvation**  
God in His abounding love provided the only Way for people to repent and return to Him. God's own son, Jesus, conquered sin by living a perfect life and then offering it as a sacrifice – a payment for all, and He defeated death in His resurrection. Through this gift of grace and mercy, all who believe and confess Jesus as LORD are reunited with God – forever.
- **Holiness**  
Our salvation through Jesus is our righteousness and allows us to receive God's Holy Spirit. The Spirit works in us and through us to change our entire lives, purifying us to live in holiness – separate and different from the world around us. Our obedience brings glory to God and gives testimony to His grace.
- **Church**  
Christ's church is the collective union of Christians. Because of redemption in Jesus, God inhabits His people – not a building. He reveals His power and glory through a unified church. The church functions as a body with Jesus as the head – the one and only leader. Reflecting Christ's sacrificial love is what ultimately sets the church apart and proves we belong to Him.
- **Great Commission**  
In receiving the gift and power of God's grace, we are commissioned and empowered to spread this Good News of salvation with everyone.
- **Rapture & Second Coming of Jesus**  
We work with urgency, because Jesus has promised to return. One day, Jesus will come to rescue all who have chosen Him. Then Jesus will return to bring God's Kingdom fully and completely to the earth, and evil will be defeated FOREVER.

#### 4. **Baptism**

Baptism is an outward expression and public confession of our surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. It represents the spiritual cleansing we have in Jesus, and our commitment to a new life of holiness through the empowering of the Holy Spirit.

We baptize by submersion to represent the full and complete cleansing from sin and covering of the Holy Spirit.

Baptism is an act of obedience after choosing and receiving Jesus as Savior and Lord. (Baby dedication is separate from baptism.)

#### 5. **The LORD's Supper**

Jesus instructed His followers to remember His sacrifice and example through sharing the Lord's Supper (or Communion) together. The bread represents Jesus' body, which was broken for us. The wine represents His blood, which was shed for our sins. In His last night with His disciples, Jesus demonstrated and taught them about His love. He told them to remember His love AND

show that same kind of love to each other. Communion is intended to not only connect us intimately with Jesus, but also with each other – the body of Christ.

We have Communion in our worship service with bread and juice. Our Communion is open to all who are seeking to love and honor Jesus. We also encourage followers of Jesus to worship God in Communion with each other as families and small groups, remembering and choosing Jesus' call for us to love one another as He loved us.

## Article V Membership

Membership is established and maintained by demonstration of commitment through regular attendance and support of Living Stones Church by sharing talents and resources.

## Article VI Leadership

As a Christian church, Jesus Christ is the ultimate Lord and leader of Living Stones Church. It is the conviction and commitment of Living Stones Church to honor the Word of God through all decisions and actions. All church leadership will lead in submission and obedience to Jesus and the Word of God. Appendix B reflects a sample of scriptures that speak to the role of servant leaders.

1. Pastor  
The Pastor is the executive leader of Living Stones Church. The Pastor will actively display His commitment to the lordship of Jesus in church decisions. All financial and ministry decisions will be made by or receive approval from the Pastor.
2. Team  
The Pastor will lead with the help of other church leaders, to include Elders and the Youth Leader.
3. Elders  
Living Stones Church has two Elders who support the Pastor in decision making and management. In the event the church membership exceeds 80 adults, more Elders will be selected and installed by the Leadership Team, according to Article VIII, 2.
4. Youth Leader  
The Youth Leader will plan and manage all the care and ministry for children and teens and is an active member of the Leadership Team.
5. Accountability  
All leaders of Living Stones Church profess accountability to the Word of God. Leaders are expected to hold each other accountable to the Word of God in truth and love. Members also play a role by voicing concerns in truth and love.

## Article VII Meetings and Ministry

Living Stones Church will meet for a worship service every Sunday. Youth groups and other services will meet as appropriate for Bible study, worship, service projects, or other ministry purposes.

Financial and planning meetings will be called as needed. All members are invited to participate in church meetings. Final decisions will be made by the Leadership Team and Pastor, according to Article VI of the Constitution.

## Bylaws

### Article VIII Leadership Selection and Installation

1. Pastor

The Pastor is ordained by Living Stones Church by profession of His personal calling and commitment to the Word of God and spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He must commit to teach and care for the congregation as a servant leader. The Pastor must agree to the beliefs of Living Stones Church and commit to teaching and upholding the values of those beliefs. Official ordination is approved and signed by the Elders.

2. Elders

The number of Elders will be determined by the number of members. There will be at least two Elders per 80 members.

Elders are selected and installed based on personal profession and demonstrated commitment to the Word of God and to the care of the church congregation. The Elders must agree to the beliefs of Living Stones Church and commit to teaching and upholding the values of those beliefs. After prayerful consideration, the Elders will be appointed by unanimous agreement of the Leadership Team.

### Article IX Finances and Property

In accordance with the scriptural command "Love your neighbor as yourself", Living Stones Church will commit 50% of monthly offerings to mission work. All church monies will be used for missions, ministry, and facilities. All members can view Living Stones Church bookkeeping upon request.

1. Treasurer

The Treasurer manages the spending and receiving of all Living Stones Church monies. The Pastor and Treasurer have access to Living Stones Church accounts. The Treasurer shall be a trusted member of Living Stones Church, selected unanimously by the Leadership Team.

2. Salaries

Living Stones Church will be led by volunteers. There will be no salary positions.

3. Church Building  
Living Stones Church meets in a pole barn building for all worship and ministry purposes. The building and land are owned and provided by Kevin and Jonna Yarbrough. Living Stones Church makes payments on the building loan.
4. In the case that Living Stones Church disbands, the landowners will maintain ownership of the building.
  - a) Any remaining finances will first be used toward church debt and the building loan.
  - b) Then remaining funds will be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code. - specifically to local Christian nonprofit(s).
5. In the case that Living Stones Church leaves its current location, the landowners will maintain ownership of the building. The landowners will assume the responsibility of any remaining building debt.

## Article X Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution or these Bylaws will be made by the church Leadership team and then made public to all church members.

# Signatures - Leadership Team

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Pastor

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date

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Elder

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date

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Elder

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date

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Youth Leader

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date

# Appendix A

## Beliefs – Scriptures

### 1. Bible

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Isaiah 40:8

The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1:20-21

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Psalms 119:105

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only be gotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 8:31-32

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Matthew 4:4 (Deut. 8:3)

Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

### 2. GOD

Deuteronomy 10:17

For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes.

Job 36:26

How great is God—beyond our understanding! The number of his years is past finding out.

1 John 4:8

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Psalm 50:6

Let the heavens declare His righteousness, For God Himself *is* Judge.

Psalm 147:5

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.

John 4:24

God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

Isaiah 55:8-9

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD.

“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 40:28

Do you not know? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.

2 Samuel 22:32-34

“For who *is* God, except the LORD?

And who *is* a rock, except our God?

God *is* my strength *and* power,

And He makes my way perfect.

He makes my feet like the *feet* of deer,

And sets me on my high places.

Psalm 62:7-8

In God *is* my salvation and my glory;

The rock of my strength,

*And* my refuge, *is* in God.

Trust in Him at all times, you people;

Pour out your heart before Him;

God *is* a refuge for us.

## **Trinity**

2 corinthians 13:14

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 corinthians 1:21-22

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

Matthew 28:19

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit



Matthew 3:16-17

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Luke 10:21-22

At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

John 14:16-17

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

## **Father**

1 Corinthians 8:6

yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

1 John 4:14

And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

John 14:9-11

Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.

Ephesians 1:3

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

## **Son**

John 1:14

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

1 Peter 1:20

He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

John 10:30

I and the Father are one.”

John 17:5

And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

## **Holy Spirit**

John 14:26

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you

John 16:13-15

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Romans 5:5

And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Romans 8:26-27

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.

1 Corinthians 2:12-16

What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, for, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

Hebrews 10:15-17

The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:

“This is the covenant I will make with them  
after that time, says the Lord.

I will put my laws in their hearts,  
and I will write them on their minds.”

Then he adds: “Their sins and lawless acts  
I will remember no more.”

### **3. Kingdom of God**

Revelation 21:3

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people,  
and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

1 Cor. 4:20

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.

#### **Eternal**

Psalm 102:12

But you, LORD, sit enthroned forever; your renown endures through all generations.

Revelation 1:8

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the  
Almighty.”

Psalm 90:2

Before the mountains were brought forth,  
Or ever You had formed the earth and the world,  
Even from everlasting to everlasting, You *are* God.

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

#### **Creation**

Psalm 33:6-9

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,  
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

He gathers the waters of the sea into jars;  
he puts the deep into storehouses.

Let all the earth fear the LORD;  
let all the people of the world revere him.

For he spoke, and it came to be;  
he commanded, and it stood firm.

Acts 17:24-28

“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’

Isaiah 42:5

This is what God the LORD says—  
the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out,  
who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it,  
who gives breath to its people,  
and life to those who walk on it:

Genesis 1:31-35

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Genesis 2:4

This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

Genesis 1:27

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Isaiah 44:24

“This is what the LORD says—  
your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb:  
I am the LORD,  
the Maker of all things,  
who stretches out the heavens,  
who spreads out the earth by myself,

Colossians 1:16

For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

### **Good v. Evil**

Ephesians 6:12

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Psalms 37:27

Turn from evil and do good; then you will dwell in the land forever.

John 1:5

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 3:19

This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

1 John 3:8

The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

Hebrews 5:14

But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22

Test everything that is said; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil.

James 4:7

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Matthew 6:13

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Galatians 5:16-17

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

Ephesians 6:11

Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Psalms 23:4

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Genesis 2:17

but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

## **Sin – Death – Separation from God**

Isaiah 59:2

But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

Genesis 2:15-17

Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Genesis 3:22

And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever."

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Isaiah 64:6

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **Salvation**

John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Romans 10:9

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 John 4:14

And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

John 5:24

"Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life."

Acts 4:12

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

Romans 3:22-25

This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—

### **Holiness**

Leviticus 20:26

You are to be holy to me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 4:7

For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.

1 Peter 1:14-16

As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

2 Peter 1:3-8

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 2:21

Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

2 Corinthians 7:1

Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

Romans 12:1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

## **Great Commission**

Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Mark 16:15

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to everyone, everywhere."

Luke 24:46-47

He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

John 20:21

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Romans 10:15

And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Acts 28:28

"Therefore I want you to know that God's salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen!"

Matthew 9:37-38

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

## **Second Coming of Jesus**

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

Hebrews 9:28

so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

John 14:1-3

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."



Acts 1:10-11

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Revelation 1:7

“Look, he is coming with the clouds,” and “every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”; and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.” So shall it be! Amen.

John 6:35-40

Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

Luke 9:26

Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

James 5:7

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains.

Matthew 25:13

“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

2 Peter 3:10

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

Matthew 24:44

So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

## 4. Baptism

Acts 2:38

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:4-6

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

1 Peter 3:21

and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Acts 22:16

And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on the name of the LORD.’

1 Corinthians 12:13

For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

Galatians 3:27

for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ

Romans 6:3—6

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—

Matthew 28:19-20

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

## 5. The LORD's Supper

Matthew 26:26-28

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Luke 22:17-20

After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

Mark 14:22-24

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take it; this is my body.”<sup>23</sup> Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he

gave it to them, and they all drank from it. <sup>24</sup>“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,” he said to them.

1 Corinthians 11:23-28

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.

Acts 2:42

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

John 15:12-13

This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.  
Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.

## Appendix B

### Leadership – Scriptures

Colossians 1:18

And Jesus is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy.

John 15:16

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

Ephesians 4:11-16

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. 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.

James 3:1-2

Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.

Romans 12

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

<sup>9</sup>Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the

Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

#### Acts 6:1-7

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

#### Acts 14:23

Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

#### 1 Peter 5:1-11

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because,

"God opposes the proud

but shows favor to the humble."

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. <sup>7</sup> Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

#### Titus 1:5-16

The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer manages God's household, 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. For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision group. They must be silenced, because they are disrupting whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain. One of Crete's own prophets has said it: "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons." This saying is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the merely human commands of those who reject the truth. To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

#### 1 Timothy 3:1-12

Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his 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, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full 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.

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

A deacon must be faithful to his 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.

#### 1 Timothy 4

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some

value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

#### 1 Timothy 5:17-25

The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For Scripture says, "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages." Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. But those elders who are sinning you are to reprove before everyone, so that the others may take warning. I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.

#### 1 Timothy 6: 11-16; 20-21

But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, which some have professed and in so doing have departed from the faith.

#### Acts 20:26-32

Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of any of you. For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

"Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

#### 2 Timothy 1:6-8

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.

#### 2 Timothy 4:1-5

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

#### 1 Thessalonians 2:4-8

On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. Instead, we were like young children among you.

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

#### James 5:14

Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.

#### 1 Chronicles 29:1-20

Then King David said to the whole assembly: “My son Solomon, the one whom God has chosen, is young and inexperienced. The task is great, because this palatial structure is not for man but for the LORD God. With all my resources I have provided for the temple of my God—gold for the gold work, silver for the silver, bronze for the bronze, iron for the iron and wood for the wood, as well as onyx for the settings, turquoise, stones of various colors, and all kinds of fine stone and marble—all of these in large quantities. Besides, in my devotion to the temple of my God I now give my personal treasures of gold and silver for the temple of my God, over and above everything I have provided for this holy temple: three thousand talents of gold (gold of Ophir) and seven thousand talents of refined silver, for the overlaying of the walls of the buildings, for the gold work and the silver work, and for all the work to be done by the craftsmen. Now, who is willing to consecrate themselves to the LORD today?”

Then the leaders of families, the officers of the tribes of Israel, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of the king’s work gave willingly. They gave toward the work on the temple of God five thousand talents and ten thousand darics of gold, ten thousand talents of silver, eighteen thousand talents of bronze and a hundred thousand talents of iron. Anyone who had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the temple of the LORD in the custody of Jehiel the Gershonite. The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the LORD. David the king also rejoiced greatly.

David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying,

“Praise be to you, LORD,  
the God of our father Israel,  
from everlasting to everlasting.  
Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power  
and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,  
for everything in heaven and earth is yours.  
Yours, LORD, is the kingdom;



you are exalted as head over all.  
Wealth and honor come from you;  
you are the ruler of all things.  
In your hands are strength and power  
to exalt and give strength to all.  
Now, our God, we give you thanks,  
and praise your glorious name.

“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you. LORD, the God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep these desires and thoughts in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you. And give my son Solomon the wholehearted devotion to keep your commands, statutes and decrees and to do everything to build the palatial structure for which I have provided.”

Then David said to the whole assembly, “Praise the LORD your God.” So they all praised the LORD, the God of their fathers; they bowed down, prostrating themselves before the LORD and the king.