

Convent Avenue Baptist Church  
Bible Study 1/6/10  
Pastor Jesse Williams

*The Articles of Faith; What we believe...*

### **Article I. THE SCRIPTURES**

Jeremiah 15:16, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, John 1:1-14

Of all of the places where a foundational doctrinal statement of a church or denomination could begin, ours begins with the scriptures. This is clearly an indication that we are a church that believes that scripture is authoritative and important for us as we live lives of faith. First and foremost we are people who believe in the scriptures, the bible, because it is the Word of God in written form. We believe that the Bible is relevant and authoritative for all areas of our lives as we live for God. We are “people of the book”; and we believe that in the 66 books of the Old and New Testament God has revealed Himself to humanity and communicates to us His will and purpose.

In this contemporary post-modern culture that we now live in, the Bible is thought by some to be simply “helpful suggestions” that humanity can accept or reject. But we believe that the Bible is the word of God, and that it is God’s design and will for how we should live our lives. We are committed to living according to the scriptures as faithfully as we can. Among the important doctrinal teachings in this article of faith are the following:

#### **The Inspiration of the Bible**

We believe that the Bible was written by men who were divinely inspired by God’s Holy Spirit to write as God moved on their hearts. While men did the physical writing, we believe that God is the actual author of the Bible. While men are limited because of their finite experience and humanity, God is able to move on the hearts of finite beings and use them to communicate infinite truths about God’s self. While there are many different human writers who contributed to the physical writing of the Bible, over the test of time, cultures and other human differences, the message of the Bible is consistently clear in presenting God and God’s intent for humanity. God communicates to us through the channels of human experience and human expression from various walks of life, but the author is still God. It is God who inspired men to write the scriptures in ways that we can understand. No one human writer wrote EVERYTHING that there is to know about God, rather God used each writer to give us a piece of revelation about God. Hence, we must read the whole bible to be exposed to the many ways that God inspired the human writers.

#### **The Content of the Bible**

We believe that the Scripture has “*salvation as it’s end, and truth without any mixture of error for it’s matter.*” So, we believe that God’s intent in Scripture is to reveal His means and provisions for salvation of humanity and all of creation. The Scriptures contain accounts of the saving power of God in the history of mankind since the beginning of time. Hence, the content of the Bible is concerned with Salvation, and it constantly points to salvation as God’s ultimate will for humanity and creation.

We further believe that the Scripture does not have errors in it. This means that the content and principles that God communicates with us in the Bible are inerrant, meaning that there are no mistakes in them. Much has been said about the mistakes that human beings make, and if they are in the process, then there must be some errors. But we must remember that the scripture is essentially a theological book about God, not a textbook in an academic discipline. The principles communicated about God in scripture are always right.

#### **The Interpretation of the Bible**

We believe that the best and only way to interpret scripture is through the lens of Jesus Christ. That is, for any scripture Old or New Testament, we look at it in light of what we know about Jesus. Jesus is the Word that became flesh, and He is the fullest and most complete living revelation of God known to the world. Scripture only makes sense when we read it with a Christological focus.

