

CORE BELIEFS

A Summary of Personal Beliefs by Elder Steve Folsom 2018

I believe in God the Father, Almighty Creator and Sovereign Lord of heaven and earth. He has clearly revealed to me His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature through all that He has made so that I am without excuse when I refuse to honor Him as God and give thanks to Him.

I believe that all Scripture (Old and New Testaments) was breathed out by God to our fathers through the prophets in times past in many portions and in many ways, and in these last days He has spoken to us in His Son Jesus Christ.

I believe that the central message of **all** of Scripture is Jesus Christ and The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In Christ alone, His elect from every nation have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us.

I believe the Scriptures are living and powerful and true because The Triune God is True.

God's Holy Spirit illumines the Truth of His Word and savingly convinces His elect of the truth about Himself and His word, about man, sin, death, hell, Christ, His Cross, His Authority to forgive sins, His Resurrection, His Church, faith, repentance – in fact, all things we need to live godly lives in this present age while we wait for His glorious appearing to judge the living and the dead.

I believe that every day I fall short of His Glory and by my works I justly earn the wages of my sin; that is death and Hell.

But the Good News is that **I am justified by Faith as a gift by His Grace** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

I believe that I still have much sin in me and that God is a faithful Heavenly Father and He will discipline me as needed through various trials so that I will bear much spiritual fruit and so prove to be His disciple. Apart from Christ I can do nothing.

I believe that I have been called to submit to Christ as Lord over All and Head of His Church and humbly receive instruction from God's Word preached and taught by the pastors and the elders under whom God has placed me, with the hope and expectation that God is at work in me to do and to will according to His good pleasure, sanctifying

me together with the members of His body so that I will be able to use my gifts for the building up of His Church.

This is the will of God, our sanctification.

I affirm and embrace the Second London Baptist Confession of 1689 as a general summary of the essential doctrines of the historic orthodox Christian faith.

I believe that since sin and death came into the world Christ has been building His Church and He will present to Himself each and every member perfect and complete without spot or blemish. It is the kind intention of His Will which He purposed in Christ to cause **all things** to work together for the good of those who love Him, to those who are called according to His purpose because **all things are His servants**.