



Southeast Church of the Nazarene

## **THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE:**

### **1. ABOUT GOD**

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God. Genesis 1:1, 26, 27, 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; I Peter 1:2; II Corinthians 13:14.

### **2. ABOUT JESUS CHRIST**

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Matthew 1:22, 23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5, 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14, 15; I Corinthians 15:3, 4; Romans 1:3, 4; Acts 1:9-11; I Timothy 6:14, 15; Titus 2:13.

### **3. ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily. II Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16, 17; Acts 1:8; I Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18

### **4. ABOUT THE BIBLE**

The Bible is God's word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christians beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any mixture or error. II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20, 21; II Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105, 160, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5

### **5. ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS**

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God call "sin". This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life. Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1, 2

### **6. ABOUT SALVATION**

Salvation is God's free gift to us, but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith. Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8, 9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1

### **7. ABOUT SANCTIFICATION**

We believe that believers are to be sanctified wholly, subsequent to regeneration, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is wrought by the baptism with the Holy Spirit, whereby a person can experience the cleansing of the heart from sin. John 17:17-19; Romans 15:16; Ephesians 5:26; II

Timothy 2:21; Hebrews 13:12; I Peter 1:2; Isaiah 3:3; James 4:8; I John 1:7

#### **8. ABOUT ETERNITY**

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

John 3:16; John 14:17; Romans 6:23; Romans 8:17-18; Revelation 20:15; I Corinthians 2:7-9

#### **9. ABOUT BAPTISM**

We believe that Christian baptism, commanded by our Lord, is a sacrament signifying acceptance of the benefits of the atonement of Jesus Christ, to be administered to believers and declarative of their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior, and full purpose of obedience in holiness and righteousness.

Baptism being a symbol of the new covenant, young children may be baptized, upon request of parents or guardians who shall give assurance for them of necessary Christian training. Baptism

may be administered by sprinkling, pouring, or immersion, according to the choice of the applicant. Matthew 3:1-7, 28:16-20; Acts 2:37-41, 8:35-39, 10:44-48, 16:29-34, 19:1-6; Romans 6:3-4;

Galatians 3:26-28; Colossians 2:12; I Peter 3:18-22

#### **10. ABOUT COMMUNION**

We believe that the Memorial and Communion Supper instituted by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is essentially a New Testament sacrament, declarative of His sacrificial death, through the merits of which believers have life and salvation and promise of all spiritual blessings in Christ. It is distinctively for those who are prepared for reverent appreciation of its significance, and by it they show forth the Lord's death till He comes again. It being the Communion feast, only those who have faith in Christ and love for the saints should be called to participate therein. Exodus 12:1-14;

Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:17-20; John 6:28-58; I Corinthians 10:14-21, 11:23-32