

What We Believe

by Elbert A. Smith

We believe in God the Eternal Father, and in his Son Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.

We believe that men will be punished for their own sins and not for Adam's transgression.

We believe that through the atonement of Christ, all men may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel.

We believe that these laws and ordinances are (1) Faith in God and in the Lord Jesus Christ; (2) Repentance; (3) Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; (4) Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.

We believe in the resurrection of the body: that the dead in Christ will rise first at his second coming when he appears to usher in the millennial reign, and the rest of the dead will not live again until the thousand years are ended.

We believe in the doctrine of eternal judgment, which provides that man shall be judged and rewarded or punished, according to the degree of good or evil he shall have done.

We believe that a man must be called of God and ordained by the laying on of hands of those who are in authority, to entitle him to preach the gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof.

We believe in the same kind of organization that existed in the primitive church, viz.: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, and all other officers provided for in the Scriptures.

We believe that in the Bible is contained the word of God.

We believe that the canon of Scripture is not full, but that God, by his Spirit, will continue to reveal his word to man until the end of time.

We believe in the powers and gifts of the everlasting gospel, viz.: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits; tongues, interpretation of tongues.

We believe that marriage is ordained of God; and that the law of God provides for but one companion in wedlock for either man or woman. In cases where the contract of marriage is broken by death the remaining one is free to marry again, and in case of breach of the marriage covenant the innocent one may also remarry.

We believe that the doctrines of a plurality and a community of wives are heresies, and are opposed to the law of God. The Book of Mormon says: "Wherefore, my brethren, hear me, and hearken to the word of the Lord: For there shall not any man among you have save it be ONE WIFE; and concubines he shall have none; for I, the Lord God, delighteth in the chastity of women. And whoredoms are an abomination before me; thus saith the Lord of Hosts."

We believe that in all matters of controversy upon the duty of man toward God, and in reference to preparation and fitness for the world to come, the word of God should be decisive and the end of dispute; and that when God directs, man should obey.

We believe that men should worship God in "spirit and in truth"; and we claim the privilege for ourselves and all men of worshipping Almighty God according to the dictates of conscience, providing that such worship does not require a violation of the constitutional law of the land.

We believe that all men are bound to sustain and uphold the respective governments in which they

reside while protected in their inherent rights by the constitutional laws of such governments, and that sedition and rebellion are unbecoming every citizen thus protected.

We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men; indeed, we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul:

We believe all things true, we hope for all things good, we have endured many things and hope to be able to endure all things necessary to the glory of God. If there is anything virtuous or lovely or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things.