



What We Believe

The Essentials We Believe (Mount Zion's Bedrock Beliefs):

Teaching in any group at Mount Zion needs to be aligned with the following nine Bedrock Beliefs. If you have any question about whether a curriculum, book, etc. is consistent with these teachings, talk with a pastor.

1. THE TRINITY

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The three are equal and are one God. [See Genesis 11:1, 26-27; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14]

2. CHRIST

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

3. THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is 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. [See 2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25]

4. SCRIPTURE

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, guidance, and authority for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any mixture of error. [See 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119: 105, 160, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5]

5. HUMAN BEINGS

People are the supreme object of God's creation. God made us in his own image, to be like him in character and to enjoy relationship with him. He gave human beings the authority to use what he created and the responsibility to care for it. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude that separates people from God and causes many problems in life.

[See Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a, 59:1-2; Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:1-3]

6. SIN

All people have a natural tendency to choose our own way over God's way. God gives us the freedom to choose to obey or rebel against him. This attitude of self-rule is sin. It separates us from God and causes great pain and difficulty. Satan is a real, evil, spiritual being who tempts people to sin and attempts to keep us separated from God.

[See 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 4:18; Romans 6:23; Luke 8:12; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 6:11-18]

7. 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 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.

[See John 1:12, 14:6; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 6:23, 10:9-10; Acts 2:38, 16:31]

8. THE CHURCH

The Church consists of all those who repent of their sin and trust Christ for salvation. Local congregations exist wherever Christians gather, God's word is truly preached, and the sacraments of baptism and communion are administered. The purpose of the church is to reach out in evangelism, to engage those who accept God's gift of salvation in discipleship, to promote fellowship, to worship God, and to serve the needs of others through ministry.

[See 1 Corinthians 1:2; Colossians 1:18; Hebrews 13:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Matthew 28:19-20]

9. 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 in heaven. Heaven and hell are real places of eternal existence.

[See John 3:16, 2:25, 5:11-13; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15]