

Alaska Christian Ministry to Seafarers (ACMS)

Doctrinal Statement

The Holy Scriptures

We believe that “all scripture is given by inspiration of God,” by which we understand the whole Bible is inspired in the sense that “holy men of God were moved by the Holy Spirit” to write the very words of Scripture. We believe that this divine inspiration extends equally and fully to all parts of the writings – historical, poetical, doctrinal, and prophetic – as appeared in the original manuscripts. We believe that the Scriptures are the final authority for all faith and practice, and in conjunction with the Holy Spirit, are entirely adequate for every spiritual or emotional problem. (Prov. 30:5; Mat. 24:35, John 5:39, 17:17; Romans 15:4).

The Triune Godhead

We believe that the Godhead eternally exists in three persons – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Godhead is the absolute and sole creator of the universe, and their creation was by divine decree, not through an evolutionary process. (Gen. 1, 2; John 1:14; Col 1:16).

The Father

We believe that God the Father, the first person of the Trinity, in His sovereignty, continually upholds, directs, and governs all creatures and events according to His own purpose and grace. (Psalm 145:8-9; 1 Chr. 29:11). He is neither author nor approver of sin. (Hab. 1:13; Jn. 8:38-47).

The Son (Lord Jesus Christ)

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men (John 1:1,2, 14, 18; Luke 1:35; Gal. 4:4-5). We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice for the sins of the world; and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Romans 3:24, 25; 4:24, 25; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; 1 Tim. 2:4-6; 1 Peter 2:24; Eph. 1:7; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 John 2:2). We believe that in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave, God confirmed the deity of His Son and gave proof that God has accepted the propitiatory work of Christ on the cross. Jesus’ bodily resurrection is also the guarantee of a future resurrection life for all believers (John 5:26-29, 14:19; Romans 1:4, 4:25; 1 Corinthians 15:20, 23; 1 John 4:9-10). We believe the personal, imminent, pre-tribulation return of Jesus Christ for His redeemed church (rapture) and His pre-millennium returning with His church in glory to establish His millennial kingdom on earth. (Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thes. 4:13-18; Rev. 20).

The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the blessed Trinity, though omnipresent from all eternity, took up His abode in the world in a unique sense on the day of Pentecost according to the divine promise, and now dwells in every believer in Christ. The Holy Spirit unites all believers to Christ in one body. We believe that His abode in the world in this special way will cease when Christ

comes to receive His own at the completion of the building of His Church (John 14:1-17, 16:7-15; 1 Cor. 6:19, 12:12-13; Eph. 2:22; 2 Thes. 2:7).

Depravity of Man

We believe that man was originally and directly created in the image of God, and that he fell through sin. As a consequence of his sin, Adam was relationally separated from God in trespasses and sins, and he became subject to the power of the devil. We also believe that his spiritual death and total depravity of human nature has been transmitted to the entire human race of man. (Gen. 1:26; Psalm 14:1-3, 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9; John 3:6, 5:40, 6:53; Romans 3:10-19, 23, 5:12, 8:6-7; Eph. 2:1-3).

Salvation From Sin's Penalty

We believe that salvation is wholly by God's grace on the basis of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, the merit of His shed blood, and not on the basis of human merit or works. The gift of Salvation is eternal Life through Jesus Christ's purchased price. (John 1:12; Romans 3:24-25, 28, 4:5, 11:6; Eph. 1:7, 2:8-10; 1 Peter 1:18-19).

We believe that when an unregenerate person exercises personal faith in Jesus Christ alone, he passes immediately out of spiritual death to spiritual life and from the old creation in Adam into the new Creation in Jesus Christ. We believe in justification by God's grace alone, through faith alone in Christ alone, and for the glory of God alone. The believer is positionally complete in Jesus Christ (John 5:24, 17:23; Acts 13:39; Romans 3:24-25).

We disagree with the many contemporary phrases that are often stated as necessary responses or conditions to the Gospel for someone to be saved. Such statements include: "make a commitment to Christ," "believe plus be baptized," "believe and keep the Ten Commandments," "submit to Christ's mastery / lordship in your life," "repent of or confess your sins," "pray the sinner's prayer," "come forward," "ask Jesus into your heart," etc. We believe the only right response to the Gospel of grace is faith alone in Christ alone based on His cross-work and resurrection alone (Acts 16:30-31; John 3:16-18, 5:24, 6:32-40, 8:24; Romans 3:28, 4:5).

Eternal Security

We believe it is the privilege of all who are born again by the Spirit through faith in Christ alone, to be absolutely assured of their salvation from the very day they trust Him to be their Savior. (Eph. 1:13-14, 4:30; John 5:24, 10:28; I John 5:13). We believe, however, that God is a holy and righteous Father who cannot overlook the sin of His children. He will, when they persistently sin, chasten them and correct them in infinite love. (Heb 12:6-12; 1 Cor. 6:19; 1 John 2:1-2).

Christian Living

We believe that the authentic Christian life is designed to be a daily (2 Cor. 4:16), personal (Col. 1:27), vertical (James 4:8) fellowship with God (1 John 1:3) based on the believer's identification with Jesus Christ (Romans 6, Gal. 2:20), motivated primarily by His love. (2 Cor. 5:14; 1 John 4:19). To be accomplished totally by His grace (2 Cor. 9:8; 12:9; 1 Cor. 15:10) and power (Phil. 2:13; 4:13),

which is enjoyed through repeated responses of faith. (Col. 2:6; Gal. 2:20). This will result in spiritual growth in Christ-likeness as one diligently seeks the Lord by Faith through Grace. (Heb. 4:11, 11:6, 12:2, 2 Peter 3:18).

Sanctification

We believe that sanctification, which is a setting-apart unto God, is threefold: it is already complete for every saved person because of his position in Christ. There is, secondly, a progressive sanctification wherein the Christian is to “grow in grace,” and to “be changed” by the unhindered power of the Spirit. (Romans 6:1-14; Romans 8:1-5; John 17:17.) And thirdly, that the child of God will yet be fully sanctified in his Glorified state when he sees his Lord either at death or the Rapture. (2 Corinthians 3:18, 7:1; Ephesians 4:24, 5:25-27; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 10:10, 14, 12:10; 1 John 3:1-3).

Spiritual Gifts

We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts; that the gifts of evangelists, pastors, and teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today. (Eph. 4:7-16) Speaking in tongues and the working of sign miracles gradually ceased as the nation of Israel was disciplined, and the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established (Mark 16:20; 1 Corinthians 12-14; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:7-12). We believe that at the moment of regeneration every believer receives enabling gifts for service, bestowed by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-26, 13:1-13, 14:4, 12, 26).

The Church

We believe that all who place their faith in Jesus Christ are immediately baptized by the Holy Spirit into one united spiritual body, the Church (1 Cor.12:12-13), the body and bride of Christ (Eph. 5:23-32; Rev. 19:7-8), of which Christ is the head (Eph. 1:22, 4:15; Col.1:18). We believe that the formation of the Church, the body of Christ, began on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-21, 38-47) and will be completed at the coming of Christ for His own at the Rapture (1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thes.4:13-18). We believe that the two ordinances of the local church are the Lord's Supper and believer's baptism.

Biblical Interpretation

We believe in a consistent, normal, grammatical, historical, method of contextual interpretation for rightly dividing the Word of God. Thus, the Church is not “spiritual Israel.” (Genesis 12:1-2, 13:14-17, 15:1-5, 17-21; Deut. 29:1-30:20; 2 Samuel 7:12-16; Jeremiah 31:31-34)

Missions

We believe that it is the privileged responsibility of the saved to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scripture and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Romans 1:14-16; 2 Cor. 5:19, 20; Acts 13:1-5; 16:1-3; Phi. 4:14-18; Romans 15:24).

Family

We believe that God created and blessed the family as the foundation of society. Marriage unites one genetically defined naturally born male (man) and one genetically defined naturally born female (woman) in a lifetime commitment to each other. We believe that sexual intimacy is designed and reserved by God for couples comprised of only one man and one woman, solely under the covenant of marriage. (Genesis 2:23-24; Matt. 19:4-6; Romans 7:1-3).