

COVENANT OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NORTHUMBERLAND, PA.  
JULY 7, 1842

Having been, as we trust, brought by divine grace to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ and to give up ourselves wholly to Him; we do now solemnly and joyfully covenant with each other, to walk together in Him with brotherly love to His glory as our common Lord. We do therefore engage in his strength

that we will exercise a mutual care, as members one of another to promote the growth of the whole body in Christian knowledge, holiness, and comfort, to the end that we may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God;

that to promote and secure this object we will uphold the public worship of God and the ordinances of his house and hold constant communion with each other therein;

that we will cheerfully contribute of our property for the support of the poor and for the maintenance of a faithful ministry of the gospel among us;

that we will not omit closet and family religion nor allow ourselves in the neglect of the duty of religiously training our children and those under our care, with a view to the service of Christ and the enjoyment of heaven;

that we will walk circumspectly in the world that we may win their souls, remembering that God hath not given us the Spirit of fear, but of power and of love, and of a sound mind; that we are the light of the world, and the salt of the earth, and that a city set upon a hill cannot be hid;

that we will frequently exhort and if occasion requires admonish one another according to our Lord's directions (Matthew 18:15) in the spirit of meekness, considering ourselves, lest we also be tempted;

and that as in baptism we have been buried with Christ and raised again, so there is on us a special obligation, henceforth to walk in newness of life.

And may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep through the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do his will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight through Jesus Christ to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

## ARTICLES OF FAITH

### 1. OF THE SCRIPTURES

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter. It reveals the principles by which God will judge us, and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

### 2. OF THE TRUE GOD

There is one, and only one, true and living God Whose name is Jehovah, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth, inexpressibly glorious in

holiness, worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love, revealed under the personal relative names of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

### 3. OF THE FALL OF MAN

Man was created in a state of holiness under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but by choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, wholly given to the gratification of the world, of Satan and of their own sinful passions, and therefore, under just condemnation to eternal ruin without defense or excuse.

### 4. OF THE WAY OF SALVATION

The salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God Who took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, honored the law by His personal obedience, and made atonement for our sins by His death. Being risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Saviour.

### 5. OF JUSTIFICATION

The great Gospel blessing which Christ of his fullness bestows on such as believe in Him is justification. It is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through His own redemption and righteousness. It brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

### 6. OF THE FREENESS OF SALVATION

The blessings of salvation are made free by the Gospel. It is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial and obedient faith. Nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, except for his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ, which refusal will subject him to an aggravated condemnation.

### 7. OF GRACE AND REDEMPTION

In order to be saved, we must be regenerated or born again. Regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind, and is effected in a manner above our comprehension or calculation, by the power of the Holy Spirit, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel. Its proper evidence is found in the holy faith which we bring forth to the glory of God.

### 8. OF GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE

Election is the gracious purpose of God according to which He regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners. Being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It

is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy. It encourages the use of means in the highest degree. It is ascertained by its effects in all who believe the Gospel.

#### 9. OF THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

Such only are real believers as endure unto the end. Their persevering attachment to Christ is the ground which distinguishes them from superficial professors. A special providence watches over their welfare, and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

#### 10. OF A GOSPEL CHURCH

A church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word. Its only proper officers are Bishop or Pastor and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

#### 11. OF THE HARMONY OF THE LAW AND GOSPEL

The Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government. It is holy, just and good, and the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their love of sin: to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of Grace.

#### 12. OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, with its purifying power. It is prerequisite to the privilege of a church relation and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church by the use of bread and wine are to commemorate together their dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination.

#### 13. OF THE LORD'S DAY

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and recreations, by the devout observance of all the means of grace both private and public, and by preparation for that Rest which remaineth for the people of God.

#### 14. OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT

Civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society, and magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored

and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth.

#### 15. OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED

There is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked. Such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked and under the curse, and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

#### 16. OF THE WORLD TO COME

The end of the world is approaching. At the Last Day Christ will descend from heaven and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution. A solemn separation will there take place. The wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment and the righteous to endless joy. This judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

And we further promise to do all things by divine assistance in our different stations and relations that the Lord has commanded and requires of us, particularly to confess Christ before men, take up the cross, follow holiness, keep the faith, assemble ourselves for social and public worship, love one another, forgive one another, bear one another's burthens, and seek one another's good in things temporal and spiritual, and endeavour to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace; do all things without murmurings and disputings, and finally to honour and contribute to the support who have the rule over us in the Lord, and as God shall give us the ability, to contribute to the spread of the everlasting gospel in all the earth.

This is the covenant we solemnly enter into in the fear of God, humbly imploring the divine assistance and blessing that we may be built up and established to the glory of God, the advancement of the Redeemer's interest, and the comfort and edification of our own souls through the infinite riches of free grace, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. And now unto him who is able to keep us from falling and to present us faultless before the throne of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.