

## Articles of Faith

The following ARTICLES OF FAITH OF THE JAPANESE GOSPEL CHURCH OF TORONTO is presented in a simplified form both in wording and in Scriptural references, reflecting the general tenets of the Westminster Confession of Faith. It is with prayer that these articles be read, believed and practiced.

### Section I

#### The Inspiration of Scripture

1) We believe that all Scripture is God-inspired.

II Timothy 3:16

2) We believe that the Holy Spirit chose men and women and moved them to write the Scriptures as inspired documents.

II Peter 1:20,21; I Corinthians 2:12,13

3) We believe that the Scriptures give authority in all matters of faith and practice for the Christian life.

II Timothy 3:16,17; Hebrews 4:12

### Section II

#### The True Nature of God

1) We believe that God is Almighty, Eternal, Most High and yet all-loving.

Deuteronomy 6:4; Genesis 17:1; Psalm 90:2; Isaiah 6:3; I John 4:8-10

2) We believe that the True God is Triune as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, existing equally in Being, in Nature, in Power and Glory.

Matthew 3:16,17; 28:18-20; II Corinthians 13:14

3) We believe that God, the Father is eternally existing, the Son is eternally born of the Father, and the Holy Spirit eternally proceeding from the Father and the Son.

John 14:18, 26; 15:26; Revelation 4:8; 21:5,6

4) We believe that the Son of God is Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour,

John 1:1; 3:17; Hebrews 1:3

That He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary,

Matthew 1:18-23; Isaiah 7:14

That He died on the Cross,

1 Corinthians 15:3; Philippians 2:8

That He was resurrected from the Dead,

Matthew 28:5-7; Acts 26:23; I Corinthians 15:4

That He is seated at God's Right Hand,

Acts 2:33; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:24,25

That He will come again.

John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Hebrews 9:28

5) We believe that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was a historical event for the beginning of the Church.

Acts 1:45,8; 2:1-4

We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells the believer at salvation and that He gives new life by revealing the Lord Jesus Christ and the truth of the Scriptures.

John 3:5,6; Romans 8:9-16; John 16:13-15

We believe that the filling of the Holy Spirit is the believer's privilege and duty and that it may also occur frequently to give power for special ministry.

Ephesians 5:18; Acts 6:3; 13:9,52; Luke 1:67

We believe that the gifts of the Spirit are bestowed and administered sovereignly by the Holy Spirit for the extension and perfection of the Body of Christ.

I Corinthians 12:4-11

We believe that the Holy Spirit empowers the believer through obedience to evidence good works to the glory of God in spite of human imperfections and to preserve them until the day of Redemption.

Romans 8:26,27; I Corinthians 2:4; Ephesians 1:13,14; Galatians 5:22-25

### Section III

#### The Fall of Man and His Need

1) We believe that the first man, Adam, was created sinless, in the image of God, possessing freedom of will, but sinned, through temptation, by disobeying God's command.

Genesis 1:26,27; 2:16,17; 3:1-24; Ecclesiastes 7:29

2) We believe that this original sin affected Adam and Eve and all succeeding generations of mankind to be legally guilty and condemned to physical and spiritual death, hence our need for Salvation.

Genesis 3:19; Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:12-19; 8:7,8; Ephesians 2:1-3

## Section IV

### Salvation by Grace

#### A. The Saviour

1) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, having no sin, died on the cross as the only sacrificial substitute for sinful man, and that He was resurrected according to the Scriptures for our justification.

Matthew 1:21-23; II Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 9:14; Romans 4:22-25; I

Peter 3:18

2) We believe that man is saved from his sins, only by grace, through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour.

Ephesians 2:8,9; Romans 5:1,2; Romans 10:8-17

#### B. The Church

1) We believe that the True Church is invisible, consisting of believers of all ages, gathered into one Body under Christ the Head.

Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:10,22,23; 5:23-32; Hebrews 12:22-24

2) We believe that the visible expression of the True Church is the New Testament Church, which is the gathering of a local assembly, knit together in love, for fellowship and worship in the Name of Christ.

I Corinthians 1:2; Ephesians 4:11-16; Hebrews 10:22-25

3) We believe that Christ gave to the Church the ministry of proclaiming the Gospel, observing the ordinances of water Baptism and the Lord's Supper, teaching the Word of God, making disciples for the perfecting of the Church, His Body, until He returns.

I Corinthians 12:28; 11:23-32; II Corinthians 13:5-11; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:42

## C. The Lord's Return

1) We believe that the personal, visible, glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ is the blessed hope of the Church, being the final Consummation of the believer's Salvation.

Acts 1:11; Revelation 1:7; Mark 13:26; John 5:21-29; Hebrews 9:28; Titus 2:11-13

## Section V

### The Eternal State

We believe that at death, man's eternal destiny is fixed. The natural man who dies apart from Christ enters into judgement following his death and awaits his consignment into eternal punishment. The believer in Christ awaits the day of resurrection when he shall experience immortality in relation to spirit, soul and body, and enter into eternal blessedness.

Hebrews 9:27; Ecclesiastes 12:7; Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 20:11-15;

John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15; I Corinthians 15:51-52