

Christ: The Means of Salvation

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Salvation: A Gift from God

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Salvation: Received by Faith/Surrender

Ephesians 2:8 see above

Mark 8:35

For whosoever will save his [own] life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

Salvation: It Changes Your Life

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

John 15:10

If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in His love.

Salvation: The Security of the Believer

John 3:36

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

John 5:24

...he that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

John 10:28-29

And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand. My Father, which gave them to me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

KEY DOCTRINES/BELIEFS OF MCCLENDON BAPTIST

The doctrine of salvation

The Bible teaches us that there is only one way to heaven: faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Because everyone has sinned, everyone needs God's only solution. Jesus is God's perfect payment for our sin. (John 1:11-14, 3:3-21; 14:1-6; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:23; 6:23; 5:8-10; 10:9-10,13; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; Revelation 3:20. You can commit your life to Christ as Savior and Lord right now.

- Admit you are a sinner and that your sin has separated you from a perfect and holy God.
- Believe Jesus died on the cross as God's only perfect payment for your sins.
- Willingly turn from sin and self and turn to Christ as the Lord or ruler of your life.
- Sincerely make a commitment very similar to the one printed below:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am sinful and need forgiveness. I trust that you died to pay the penalty for my sin. I want to turn from my sinful nature and follow you instead. I invite you to take control of my heart and life. In Jesus name. Amen.

- Let others know about this commitment. Do not be ashamed of Christ as your Lord.

The doctrine of the church

The Bible teaches that the church is God's idea. God began the church and sustains its existence. The church's purpose is to glorify God and make an eternal impact on people. Here at McClendon Baptist, we have a passion for worship and witness and our clear purpose is to make a spiritual impact on individuals in Ouachita Parish and beyond. (Matthew 16:15-19; Acts 2:41-42,47; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:6)

The doctrine of baptism

Baptism illustrates Christ's burial and resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:3-4 and Colossians 2:12). It also illustrates my new life as a Christian (Romans 6:4). A person should be baptized because Jesus set the example (Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9). Also, Jesus commanded us to baptize people (Matthew 28:19-20). Baptism shows we mean business about our commitment to Christ. In other words, it demonstrates that I really am a believer (Acts 18:8 and 1 John 2:3). We Baptize by immersion because Jesus was baptized that way (Matthew 3:16) and every other baptism in the Bible was by immersion (see Acts 8:38-39 for an example). The word "baptize" literally means to dip under water. Every person who has committed to Christ as Lord and Savior should be baptized as soon as they possibly can.

Acts 2:41 "Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized..."

Acts 8:13 "Simon himself believed and was baptized..."

Acts 8:12 "But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News...and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."

The doctrine of the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread (we use gluten free and unleavened bread) and the cup (we use grape juice), memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming. It is the practice of our church that anyone who confesses Christ as Savior and Lord and have been Baptized have the opportunity to receive the elements when passed. (Matthew 26:26-30, Mark 14:22-26, Luke 22:19-20; Acts 8:35-39, 16:30-33, 1 Corinthians 11:23-29.)

The doctrine of the family

The Bible also teaches that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. Single people are a vital part of the characters in the Bible. Obviously the most famous personality in the Bible was single, Jesus Christ. Marriage is the unity of one man and one woman in a covenant commitment for a lifetime. The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. (Genesis 1:27; 2:19-25; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalm 127:3; Proverbs 5:19; Song of Songs 8:6-7; Matthew 19:4-6; Romans 1:26-27; Ephesians 5:22-33 and Hebrews 13:4.)

The doctrine of stewardship

We believe that biblical stewardship involves the proper management of all that God has given us ... time, money, abilities, etc. ... to expand His kingdom (1 Corinthians 4:2; 1 Peter 4:10). Therefore, we encourage every member to adopt a lifestyle of stewardship that recognizes God's ownership of everything and to practice the biblical principle of tithing ([giving at least one-tenth of one's income](#)) to support the work of the church.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF MCCLENDON BAPTIST CHURCH

We welcome all who visit to worship and fellowship with us at McClendon Baptist Church. If you believe the Lord may be leading you to make McClendon your church home the following explains how you may do so.

-By Profession of Faith and Baptism

If you will receive Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior and follow Him in baptism by immersion, we rejoice in your relationship with Christ and joyfully receive you as a member. If you were saved and previously baptized in a church that has a different view of baptism than McClendon and most Baptist Churches holds, you will be asked to be baptized at McClendon.

-By Letter

As a Baptist whose church membership is elsewhere, should God lead you here we will gladly take care of appropriate details for transferring your membership.

-By Statement

In the event church membership records are not available for a transfer of membership, or if you were once a Baptist church member but are presently a member of another denomination, we gladly accept you upon your statement of these conditions.

-The Invitation

You are invited to respond to any of the above by coming forward during the invitation at the close of each worship service. As a body of believers who love the Lord and are committed to following Him, we look forward to your faithful prayer and participation of our Lord's work at McClendon Baptist Church.

Membership carries with the following expectations: Attend a New Members/Attendees class/seminar. Be involved in a small group bible study (often we refer to this as Sunday School). Attend worship services. Grow toward holiness, financial stewardship and sharing of your faith with others. Get involved in some form of ministry.