



## CONSTITUTION WEB-EXCERPTS

### ARTICLE V: STATEMENT OF FAITH

#### C. Non- Essential Beliefs and Practices

These doctrines are not essential for membership, and other views may be held and taught with approval of the board of elders.

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- a. Personal Eschatology- We believe and teach that physical death involves no loss of our immaterial consciousness (Revelation 6:9-11), that the soul of the redeemed passes immediately into the presence of Christ (Luke 23:43, Phil. 1:23, II Corinthians 5:8), that there is a separation of soul and body (Philippians 1:21-24) and that, for the redeemed, such separation will continue until the rapture (I Thessalonians 4:13-17) which initiates the first resurrection (Revelation 20:4-6), when the soul and body will be reunited to be glorified forever with our Lord (Philippians 3:21, I Corinthians 15:35-44, 50-54). Until that time, the souls of the redeemed in Christ remain in joyful fellowship with our Lord Jesus Christ (II Corinthians 5:8). While the saved are resurrected to eternal life (John 6:39, Romans 8:10-11, 19-23, II Corinthians 4:14) the unsaved are raised to judgment and everlasting punishment (Daniel 12:2, John 5:29, Revelation 20:13-15). The souls of the unsaved at death are kept under punishment until the second resurrection (Luke 16:19-26, Revelation 20:13-15), when the soul and the resurrected body will be united (John 5:28-29). They will then appear at the Great White Throne of Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15) and will be cast into the lake of fire (Matthew 25:41-46), separated from the life of God forever (Daniel 12:2, Matthew 25:41-46, II Thessalonians 1:7-9). (VI.H.1.)
- b. The Rapture- We believe and teach the imminent, personal, bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ before the seven -year tribulation (I Thessalonians 4:16, Titus 2:13) to rapture His church from the earth (John 14:1-3, I Corinthians 15:51-53, I Thessalonians 4:15-5:11) and, between this event and His glorious return with His saints, to reward believers according to their works (I Corinthians 3:11-15, II Corinthians 5:10). (VI.H.2.)
- c. The Tribulation- We believe and teach that immediately following the removal of the church from the earth (John 14:1-3, I Thessalonians 4:13-18), the righteous judgment of God will be poured out upon an unbelieving world (Jeremiah 30:7, Daniel 9:27, 12:1, II Thessalonians 2:7-12, Revelation 16), and that these judgments will be climaxed by the return of Christ in glory to the earth (Matthew 24:27-31, 25:31-46, II Thessalonians 2:7-12). (VI.H.3.)