

Biblical Christianity

Biblical Christianity refers to the doctrines and practices revealed in the New Testament. While the Old Testament provides the theological framework, prophetic visions, and historical examples for the church, it serves only as a teacher to bring people to Christ and to the new covenant that began with the birth of the church on the Day of Pentecost.

The fundamental doctrines of the New Testament focus upon the divine authority of the Bible (II Timothy 3:16), the unity of God (I Corinthians 8:4, 6; Galatians 3:20; I Timothy 2:5), the deity and humanity of Jesus Christ (John 8:24, 58; Colossians 2:9; I Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 2:14-18), salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 3:20-31; Ephesians 2:8-10), water baptism in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 8:16; 10:48; 19:5; 22:16), the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:39; 8:17; 9:17; 10:44-47; 11:17; 19:6; Romans 8:15; Ephesians 1:13), a life free from the bondage of sin (John 8:34-36; Romans 6:1-23), evangelizing the unsaved (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8), the return of Jesus Christ (John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; I Thessalonians 4:13-17), and the judgment of all (Revelation 20:11-15).

The monotheism so clearly expressed in the Old Testament is also proclaimed in the New Testament (I Corinthians 8:4-6; Galatians 3:20; I Timothy 2:5; Romans 3:29-30). The one God revealed Himself as the Father, through the Son, and as the Holy Ghost, and through this revelation of Himself He redeems, reconciles, and regenerates sinners to be the sons of God (II Corinthians 5:19; Galatians 4:4-7).

(Symposium on Oneness Pentecostalism (1988 and 1990): Eleven Studies Exploring Historical, Biblical, and Theological Perceptions as Related to the Oneness Movement, Sponsored by the United Pentecostal Church International, Hazelwood, MO: Word Aflame Press, 1990, 36-37; From Chapter 3, Cults, Orthodoxy, and Biblical Christianity by J. L. Hall)