

A SHORT CONFESSION OF FAITH of the LORD'S CHURCHES OF SEVENTH-OR SABBATH-DAY CHRISTIANS

I. GENERAL PART

1. GOD'S SELF-REVELATION. Our Lord God graciously reveals Himself to every human being who earnestly searches to know, to love and to obey Him. There are two kinds of this self-revelation: the indirect one and the direct one, which complete each other: (a) **INDIRECTLY** God reveals Himself through the whole creation, so wonderfully made and sustained by Him, and through the history of mankind, especially of Israel or the Jews as recorded in the so wonderfully preserved Word of God the Bible. See Genesis 1; John 1; 1 Cor. 10; Hebrews 11; Rom. 1:19, 20; Rev. 10:6, 14:7; etc. (b) **DIRECTLY** God revealed Himself through our Lord Jesus Christ Who loves and enlightens every human being, so that every one who believes in Him might not perish but have eternal life in and with Him. Willing to save us from sin, death and Satan, Christ laid aside His Divine glory when He came down from Heaven on earth. Here He was super-naturally conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary and born of her as the Son of man. He lived on earth about 33 years a sinless life doing only good, yet under Pontius Pilate He suffered and died the second death for our sins, being crucified and buried on a Preparation-day or Friday. During the Sabbath day He rested in a tomb. On the third day God the Father through the Holy Spirit raised Him from the dead and so actually He became the Son of God. Forty days later He ascended into Heaven at the right hand of the Father from whence He will return on earth in great glory and power to take to Himself all His saints, but to judge and destroy all the wicked. Now in the meanwhile God the Holy Spirit, sent from Heaven by Christ and the Father, dwells in us and makes us living temples of God to be changed to immortality and incorruption at Christ's Return. Thus Jesus Christ revealed to us God the Father and God the Holy Spirit and Himself as God the Son, in Whose One Name every believer should be baptised. For in the original Hebrew our word **GOD**, Hebrew **ELOHIM**, is plural and means actually **GODS**, while our word **LORD** derives from **JEHOVAH** (equal **I AM THAT I AM**) which is singular. Owing to Christ we now understand deeper the vital Scripture: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is **ONE LORD**." The word **ONE**, Hebrew **ECHAD**, means actually **ONE UNITED**. Only so God the Father and God the Son and God the Holy Spirit (called also the Seven Spirits in Rev. 1:4) are our **ONE (United) LORD GOD**. This is why in Genesis 1:26 our Lord God speaks of Himself as "**US**". See also Mat. 28:19; Rev. 14:1, 13.

2. THE BIBLE, the written Word of God, consists of 66 canonical books preserved inerrant in the original Hebrew and Greek languages. Through it God the Holy Spirit Who inspired all Bible writers enlightens us and helps us to understand rightly the mind and will of God as revealed in Jesus Christ, Who is now to us the eternal living Word of God.

3. THE LORD'S LOCAL CHURCHES AND HIS ONE HOLY CHURCH, HIS BRIDE. All born-again believers in Christ are brothers and sisters in Him and members one of another in His local churches. Even where two or three Christians keep the seventh-day Sabbath, the true Lord's day, and on it gather together in His Name, there is His local church. While there are many local churches, there is only one holy and perfected Church, recorded in the book of life in Heaven. She, the Bride and Body of Christ, will be complete at the end of the time of grace, just before His Return. Matt. 18:15-20; 16:18; Heb. 12:23; Rev. 2 & 3; 22:16, 17, etc.

II. SPECIAL PART

1. THE CENTRAL MESSAGE OF THE LORD'S CHURCHES OF SEVENTH-OR SABBATH-DAY CHRISTIANS is the eternal Gospel of Rev. 14 in the context and light of the whole Bible. It is proclaimed today to all earth-dwellers by Christ's 144,000 living followers, the true Israel of God (Gal. 3:29). Our burden is to stress: 'Fear God and give Him glory, FOR THE HOUR OF HIS JUDGMENT IS COME (on the cross of Calvary where Christ has tasted the second death for every sinner), and worship Him Who made heaven and earth, and the sea and the fountain of waters" (by keeping the seventh-day Sabbath, God's creation and redemption memorial). Rev. 14:7; Deut. 5. And to show: "Here is the patience of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God (including Sabbath-keeping) and the faith of Jesus" (V.12). Essential parts of the Gospel are: (1) the announcement of a double doom on the Christ-rejecting Synagogue under the vision of Babylon the Great; (2) the most solemn warning against all worshippers of the Beast and of his Image (or of the self-exalted Christ-defying State and the revived 'Israel' State), and against all who receive the Mark of the Beast in their forehead and right hand (or Satan's spirit of rebellion); (3) the right doctrine about the condition of the dead saints (that is, their restful sleep until the first resurrection at Christ's Return); (4) the right doctrine about Christ's Return, Who first takes to Himself all the saved, then judges and destroys all last living wicked BEFORE the Sabbath-Millennium on this earth, and the remaining dead wicked at the resurrection of judgment AFTER it.

2. THE RIGHT TYPES OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP are the worship services (a) at the tabernacle of David on Mount Zion (1 Chron. 16; Acts 15:16) and (b) at the tabernacle of Moses on the day of Atonement in the most holy (Lev. 16; Heb. 9 and 10). Both services point to THE ARK OF THE COVENANT, which contained the Ten Commandments under its Mercy Seat as types of Christ's righteousness and His finished atonement. Rev. 11:19.

3. THE CHRISTIAN'S PATTERN OF TITHING is Abraham's tithe to Melchizedek. Christ, our High Priest after the order of Melchizedek, demands our tithe for His work entrusted to us. Matt. 23:23; Heb. 7:8; Mal. 3:7ff.

4. GOD'S LAW OF CLEAN MEAT given to Adam, Noah and ancient Israel is still binding also for Christians, the new Israel of God. Jesus Christ, our Creator and Great Physician, commands us to abstain from all unclean and harmful things. He wants us also to pray for the sick and, if desired by them, to lay hands on them and anoint them with oil in His Name. Gen. 1:29; 3:18, 21; Lev. 11; Acts 15:21f; 1 Tim. 4:4f; James 5:14.

5. BAPTISM BY IMMERSION AND LAYING ON OF HANDS FOR THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT are joint God-ordained signs of our spiritual participation in Christ's death, burial, resurrection and anointing after we have believed in Him with the help and through the regeneration of the Holy Spirit. After having received both ordinances the believer is welcomed into church-membership by the right hand of fellowship and the holy kiss. Rom. 16:16; Gal. 2:9; Heb. 6:2; Acts 8:12-17; 19:5, 6.

6. THE LORD'S TABLE PRECEDED BY MUTUAL FEETWASHING according to His example and command should be celebrated by every local church as often as desired by all members. It may be connected with an "agape" or love-feast, that is a social brotherly reception for all church-members and friends to Christ's glory. 1 Cor. 11:23-34; John 13; Jude 12.

7. "MARRIAGE is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled; but the fornicators and adulterers God will judge" (Heb. 13:4). Separation and divorce can and should be prevented by the prevailing spirit of mutual love, forgiveness and mercy. This includes self-restraint and birth-control according to knowledge for good reasons by mutual consent of husband and wife. Children are a precious gift of the Lord and should be consecrated to Him by an early dedication service. Children should always honour their parents. 1 Pet. 3:7; Eph. 5:20 to 6:4, 1 Cor. 7.

8. ORGANISATION OF LOCAL CHURCHES. Every local church is a free and self-governing society under the headship of Christ. All its members are made by Christ priests, kings, prophets and judges unto God. They can elect among themselves elders and deacons, consecrating them by the laying on of hands with prayer. If church-members fall into sin, they should be admonished according to Christ's rule in Matt. 18:15-20, but should not be disfellowshipped. If they refuse to repent, then all faithful members should ask the Holy Spirit Lord to deliver the church from unrepentant sinners by His own judgment. Acts 5; Psa. 1.

9. CHURCH AND STATE should honour each other in their respective distinct God-given realms and duties. Church-members should be good and law-abiding citizens rendering to the State the things which pertain to it, including military service and the necessary oath of loyalty and truth. But if the State should exceed its God-given authority by forbidding such things which God commands, we must obey God and His Word rather than men. Acts 5:29; Rom. 13; Matt. 22:21; Daniel 3 & 6; Rev. 13; 14:9-11.

10. THE DOCTRINE OF ISRAEL AND THE LAST THINGS. Christ our Lord by His blood destroyed once for all the wall of partition between Hebrew and Gentile Christians, making both in Himself one new Israel of God and true Jews inwardly. Eph. 2:11-3:8; Gal. 3:7, 26-29; 4:22ff; 6:16; Phil. 3:3; Rom. 2:28; 11:1; 1 Pet. 2:9f; Rev. 2:9; 3:9; 11:8; 17:5f. But the Christ-rejecting Jewish Church or Synagogue became spiritually Babylon the Great. Isa. 1:21; Ezek. 16; Dan. 9:26f; Matt. 23:34-39; John 8:44; 1 Thes. 2:14-16; Rev. 2:9; 3:9; 11:8; 17:5-6; 18:24. She and her harlot daughters (all Christ-betraying worldly Churches named also the False Prophet (Rev. 13:11ff; 19:20) are deceiving all nations.

Both Babylon the Great and her harlot-daughters or the False Prophet are worshipping the self-exalted Christ-defying State or the seaborn, seven-headed Beast (Rev. 13:1-10). They worship also the revived so-called Israel State or the Image of the Beast, whose head deadly wounded (by Titus in 70 A.D.) was miraculously revived in 1948. We are most solemnly warned by the eternal Gospel of Rev. 14:9-12 not to worship the Beast nor his Image, neither to receive the Mark of the Beast in our forehead and right hand, that is, Satan's spirit of antichrist doctrines and evil deeds.

After his fall in sin, man became mortal in body, mind and spirit. Gen. 3:19; 1 Thes. 5:23; Matt. 10:28. So everyone who rejects Christ, the Saviour of the world, will be judged and destroyed **BY THE SECOND DEATH** (Rev. 21:8). Yet every true believer in Christ will not be judged and has already eternal life (John 3:16-21; 5:24 RV). Christ's Return is now very near. The great tribulation, the seven warning trumpets and the seven last plagues are already upon mankind. At His sudden very soon Return Christ firstly will raise from the dead all His saints who sleep in their graves, secondly He will change to immortality us who are alive, and so both groups will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then Christ and all His saints will start the Last Judgment upon the wicked in two stages, separated by the glorious Sabbath-Millennium reign of Christ and His saints on this earth. In the first stage all the living wicked are judged, first Babylon the Great by a double punishment and destruction, then the Beast, the False Prophet and all other living wicked perish in the battle of Armageddon. In the second stage, after the Sabbath-Millennium, all the not yet judged dead wicked will be raised from the dead. Immediately under Satan's leadership as Gog and Magog they attack the camp of the saints and the beloved city. Then both Satan and his wicked host are consumed by fire from heaven. This fire also destroys this old earth and heaven. Then our Lord God will create a new earth and a new heaven as an eternal most glorious abode for Himself and His saved people. So let us praise forever our great Lord God for His finally triumphant love and grace and peace. 2 Cor. 13:14.

Further free details of the eternal Gospel will be gladly sent by **THE LORD'S SEVENTH-or SABBATH-DAY CHRISTIANS. Address your request: THE LORD'S MISSION (S.D.C.), Warrimoo, N.S.W., 2775, Australia.**