

**Bible Reading: Psalm 19:1-14**

In these messages, we summarise what the Deeper Life Bible Church believes and teaches. We call them 'Gospel Landmarks' because they do not change and should not be removed (Pro 22:28; Mat 5:17,18; 24:35).

**God's infallible WORD teaches, and we believe:**

1. That the Holy Bible, consisting of 39 books of the Old Testament and 27 books of the New Testament, is the inspired Word of God. We take the Bible as final authority in all matters concerning Christian conduct and work – 2 Tim 3:16,17; Pro 30:5,6; Rev 22:18,19.

The Bible was originally written in Hebrew and Greek. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and Aramaic, and the New in Greek. There were over 40 authors drawn from disparate generations spanning a period of over 1800 years, used by God to write the Bible.

2. That the Godhead consists of three separate, distinct and recognisable personalities and qualities, perfectly united in one. The Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost are different Persons in the Godhead, not merely three names for one Person. Mat 3:16,17; 2 Cor 13:14; Mat 28:19,20.

The Father, Son and Holy Ghost are called God respectively (Mat 6:9; John 20:28; Acts 5:3,4).

3. The virgin birth of Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God. It equally teaches the crucifixion, death, burial and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. Isa 7:14; Mat 1:18-25; Rom 1:4; 1 Cor 15:3,4.

The Bible says that Jesus was miraculously conceived by the Virgin Mary. This is an essential truth which must be upheld for its fact and significance. Disputing it is denying Christ's deity and His distinctive nature as the only sinless Man. This is the quality that disqualifies every other man from satisfying God's demand at Calvary. Jesus became the spotless Lamb of God found in fashion as a man.

4. The total depravity, sinfulness and guilt of all men since the Fall, rendering them subject to God's wrath and condemnation. Psalm 51:5; Job 14:4; Rom 3:23; 5:12-17; Mark 7:21-23; Eph 2:1.

Man was created in the image of God, the crown of His creation, righteous and holy. Through voluntary disobedience, man fell into the depths of sin. The result of this is that every human being is born in sin and devoid of the holiness of God. Man is naturally inclined to evil. The total depravity, sinfulness and guilt of all men since the fall, renders all sinners subject to God's wrath and condemnation.

5. That Repentance is a complete turning away from all sin and its deceitful pleasures, and that it is required of every sinner before he can truly and effectively believe in Jesus with saving faith. Pro 28:13; Isa 55:7; Eze 18:21-23; Mark 1:15; Luke 24:46,47; Acts 2:38; 3:19,21; 2 Cor 7:10; Heb. 6:1-3.

To repent is to turn away from evil, disobedience, sin or idolatry. It is to turn away from Satan unto the living God. Repentance consists in a change of attitude towards sin. It is the deep inward experience which makes the sinner turn from sin to God. It causes an abhorrence or hatred for sin. The need for repentance is the heartache of a deeply compassionate God. Repentance is different from worldly sorrow or *remorse*, which is merely an expression of sorrow over an embarrassing outcome of sin.

6. That Restitution is making amends for wrongs done against our fellowmen, restoring stolen things to their rightful owners, paying debts, giving back where one has defrauded, making confessions to the offended and apologising to those slandered, to have a conscience void of offence toward God and man. Gen. 20:1-8,14-18; Exodus 22:1-7; Lev 6:1-17; Num 5:6-8; 2 Sam 12:1-6; Pro 6:31; Eze 33:14-16; Mat 5:23,24; Luke 19: 8,9; Acts 23:1-5; 24:16; James 4:17-5:6.

Restitution is one practical side of true repentance. Repentance is towards God while restitution is towards men. When a man confesses his sins, he receives forgiveness from God. Yet there is a moral responsibility we have towards our neighbour, for many of the sins we commit also affect other people adversely. In such cases, God requires that amendment be made to the injured or wronged person as evidence of genuine repentance. This promotes a right relationship with fellowmen.

7. That Justification (or Regeneration) is the act of God's grace whereby one receives forgiveness and remission of sins, and is counted righteous before God, through faith in the atoning blood of Jesus, standing before God as though he had never sinned. *Psalm 32:1,2; Isa 1:18; Mic 7:29; John 3:3-8; Acts 13:38,39; Rom 3:24-30; 4:6-16; 5:1,2; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Gal 2:16; Eph 2:8,9; Tit 3:5; 1 Pet 1:23.*

Christ's atonement on the Cross provides salvation for all mankind, which can only be received on a personal basis through saving faith. The sinner who seeks salvation must put faith in the blood of Jesus. The word of salvation must mix with faith in him/her. He/she must personally respond to that word and put it to work by resting on what Jesus has already done. He/she will be thereby cleared of every guilt of sin and stand before God without any record of sin.