

JOHN BAILEY'S CONFESSION OF FAITH

"I believe, there is one eternal, invisible, Almighty, ever-blessed, living and true God, who created all things out of nothing, by the word of his power; upholdeth all things by his own omnipotent arm; who governs all things by an all-wise providence; and who takes cognizance of all our thoughts, words, and actions."

Deut. vi. 4. Jer. x. 10. 1 Cor. viii. 6. 1 Tim. ii. 5. Gen. i. 1, &c. Heb. i. 1, &c. Gen. vi. 5. Psalm xiv. 2, &c.

I believe, that God has revealed to man, his holy and righteous will in the scriptures of the old and new testament; and I do receive and embrace them as a divine revelation from God, and as the only rule of faith and practice."

2 Tim. iii. 16, 17. 2 Peter i. 21. Acts xvii. 11. 2 Peter i. 19, 20.

"I believe, there is a full sufficiency of the mind and will of God, contained in the old and new testament, to make men wise (by the teaching of Jehovah the Spirit) unto salvation; all truths necessary to be known and received into the heart are therein contained; and whatever doctrine is delivered by any man, which is not contained in, or cannot be proved from the word of God, should be altogether rejected."

Rom. x. 10. John v. 39. 2 John ix. 10.

"I believe, there are three divine persons in the Godhead; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; who are equal in nature, in power, and in glory: and that the Son and Holy Spirit are as truly and properly God, as the Father; whom I revere, serve, and worship."

1 John v. 7. Matt. xxviii. 19. Phil. ix. 6. Rom. ix. 5. 1 John v. 20. John x. 30.

"I believe, that God hath decreed in himself, from all eternity, all things whatsoever come to pass; and that a certain number of our fellow-creatures were predestinated to the adoption of children by Jesus Christ, who was set up from everlasting as the head of that covenant, which secures grace and glory to all the vessels of mercy."

Rom. xi. 36. Eph. i. 4. Prov. viii, 23. Heb. viii. 6, 13.

“I believe, that the ever-blessed God created man in his own image, which consists in righteousness, knowledge, and true holiness; and in this state of purity the Lord laid his creature man under certain obligations to obey his precepts; but man violated the law given him, and in consequence of this violation, lost the image of God; immediately was under the curse of the law he had broken, became subject to all the miseries of this life, as pain, sorrow, labour, affliction, and death.”

Gen. i. 27. Eccl. vii. 29. Psalm viii. 5. Gen. xvi. 17. Gen. iii. 17, 19.

“I believe, that all mankind are sinners; that all sinned in Adam, who was the representative of the whole human race, and that all were condemned in him in consequence of his offence; for judgment came upon all men to condemnation?”

Rom. iii. 23. v. 12,18. vi. 23.

“I believe, that God from everlasting loved a peculiar people, which he chose in Christ before the foundation of the world, unto salvation, holiness, spiritual affection, and good works; that this eternal and personal election is entirely of free, sovereign grace. That Jesus Christ is the alone Saviour of the chosen seed; and in order to effect this salvation, he took all their iniquities on himself; so that the sins of all the chosen seed were in covenant transferred to Christ Jesus, their covenant head and surety; and that this covenant and all the blessings of it shall stand fast with him.”

Jer. xxxi. 3, Eph. i. 4. Rom. xi. 5. Matt. i. 21. Isaiah liii. 6. Psalm lxxxix. 28.

“I believe, that all the chosen seed of Christ were from all eternity considered as complete in him, united to him, adopted, justified, and blessed with all spiritual blessings, and are in time regenerated, converted, and sanctified.”

Eph. i. 3, 4, 5. Col. ii. 10. John i. 12, 13. Heb. xiii. 12, &c.

“I believe, that in the fulness of time, God sent forth his son, made of a woman, made under the law, and in our nature became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross; that he rose again from the dead as the surety of his people, by which a complete atonement was made for their sins, and eternal redemption secured to their persons. This redemption I believe is

special, and only designed for those who are elect according to the foreknowledge of God.

Gal. iv. 4. Rom. iii. 24, 26. Rom. iv. 25. Gal. iv. 5.

“I believe, that the justification of God’s elect, is alone by the imputation of the righteousness of Christ, received by faith.”

Jer. xxiii. 6. 2 Cor. v. 21. Acts. xiii. 39. Rom. iii. 28. iv. 6. v. 16, &c.

“I believe, that regeneration, conversion, sanctification, and faith, are not acts of man’s free will and power, but operations of the Holy Spirit, in efficacious grace, which all the elect are made partakers of, in order to eternal salvation.”

John i. 12, 13. Jer. xxxi. 18. Phil. ii. 13. Col. i. 12. Rom. ix. 16. 2 Tim. i. 9. James i. 18. Eph. i. 19. 1 Pet. i. 5.

“I believe, that the church of Christ, consists of the whole body of the redeemed, whether in heaven or on earth, which will not appear until Christ’s second coming, when all the elect will be gathered in, raised from the dead, and appear with him in glory.—But a particular church is a society of visible believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, united in love, and by mutual agreement, assembling together in one place, for the worship of God, and to observe the institutions of the Lord Jesus.”

Heb xii. 23. Eph. iii. 15. 1 Cor. xii. 12. 13. Acts ii. 1, 4, 31, 32.

“I believe, that Jesus Christ, as King of Zion, has appointed certain officers in the church, as bishops, or pastors, and deacons; the former to preach the word, and administer the ordinances; the latter to attend to the temporal concerns of the church, visit the sick, assist the pastor, and render themselves useful to the brethren.

Phil. i. 1. 1 Tim. iii. 1, 2. Acts xx. 28. vi. 1, 8.

“I believe, that reading the scriptures, prayer, singing of psalms, hymns, or spiritual songs, and preaching the word, are the ordinances of social worship, to be observed on the Lord’s day, and at other times.”

Col. iv. 16. 1 Thes. v. 27. Phil. iv. 6. Eph. v. 19. Col. iii. 16. Mark xvi. 15. Psalm cxviii. 24. Acts ii. 46.

“I believe, that baptism and the Lord’s supper, are institutions of Christ; to be continued in the church till his second coming; and that the former is requisite to the latter, i. e. that those only are to be admitted into the communion of the church, who upon a profession of their faith, have been baptized by immersion, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”

Matt. xxviii. 19, 20. 1 Cor. xi. 23, 26. Luke xxii. 10. Acts ii. 41.

“I believe, that all those who are chosen by the Father, redeemed by the Son, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit, shall certainly and finally persevere and endure to the end; so that not one of them shall ever perish, but have everlasting life.”

Matt. xxiv. 21. John vi. 39, 40. x. 28. Psalm cxxv. 1, 2. 1 Pet. i. 5. Rom. viii. 30, &c. Jude v. 24.

“I believe, that it is appointed for all men once to die, and that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust; that Christ will come a second time to judge all mankind, when he will take vengeance on the wicked by consigning them to eternal punishment, and he will introduce the righteous into his kingdom and glory, where they shall be for ever with him.”

Heb. ix. 27. Acts xxiv. 15. John v. 28, 29. Matt. xxv. 41. xxv. 34. 1 Thess. iv. 15, 17.