

### STATEMENT OF FAITH

We trust the reality that God is love (1 John 4:8). Love is other-centered, not self-seeking. The full representation of the love of God came in human flesh through the person of Jesus Christ, who created all things in the universe by the word of His mouth, lived a life of service to humanity and saved us from our sins, our rebellion, our own desire to live without Him. By His death and resurrection we have assurance of a future without pain, hurt and selfishness.

We also trust the ancient scriptures hold the evidence for the story of this passionate God, how He intended the world to be, what happened to get the world in the mess that it is in and if this mess is ever going to end.

Throughout these studies from the books of the bible we will see enough evidence that can give us assurance God loves us deeply, has won the hearts of most of the universe, except for this little planet, but His light is shining on the heart of humanity brighter and brighter each day. As restored followers of Christ, we will also show outwardly how to live a life of other-centered love, helping others in physical, material, emotional and spiritual need.

### INTRO

Chapters 11-12 present the closing to the ministry of Jesus as written by John. Christ's death approaches, and the miracle of the resurrection of Lazarus demonstrates the culmination of the good works of Christ, while this same act is crucial for the Jewish leaders to determine to kill Jesus the next chance they get. Chapter 13 begins presenting the last words of Christ to his disciples in what is known worldwide as the Last Supper. A demonstration of indescribable servanthood, humility and love is presented to his disciples.

### 1) THE RESURRECTION OF LAZARUS

John 11:1-44

When Jesus was told that Lazarus was sick, he didn't immediately leave where he was. His disciples were probably questioning why. When he arrives on site, Mary and her sister Martha demonstrate great faith in Christ when they say (v. 21, 32) that had He been there, Lazarus would not have died, trusting in Christ's miracles. They, however, had no idea that Christ would resurrect their brother. There was a belief at the time that the spirit of the deceased did not leave the vicinity of the body until about three days after death. Christ waited until the fourth day to show everyone there that Lazarus was really dead.

In verse 39, Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, by this time there's a bad odor, because he has been there four days." There was no doubt to anyone that Lazarus was totally dead, even in decay. After the miracle, Jesus prays to the Father for the benefit of all present, that they may believe that God had sent him (v. 41, 42). Although many believed in Him because of that miracle, the Pharisees made final plans to end the life of Jesus.

### 2) MARY WASHES JESUS' FEET

John 12:1-7

A demonstration of respect and love that will be remembered for eternity is the action of Mary, to wash the feet of Jesus with perfume and her hair. In Mark 14 (several theologians agree that the stories are the same), Jesus declares that the action of Mary would be remembered forever as she prepared his body for burial (Mark 14:8-9).

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### **3) JESUS IN JERUSALEM**

John 12:12-49

Jesus reaches the end of his ministry. The triumphal entry seemed to show that many people believed that Jesus was the sent Messiah, as He did many miracles and even raised the dead. But the theology of Jesus was never accepted by the Jews. Again, the words of Jesus brought anger and indignation to all, and John says in verse 37, "Even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him."

### **4) THE WORD OF GOD IS THE JUDGE**

John 12:44-49

One of the last conversations of Jesus with the Jewish people is a seldom discussed theology among Christians. Here Jesus is emphatic in saying that Jesus is not our judge, v. 47, "As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it." The one who judges is not God or Christ, v. 48, "There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day."

In these incredible verses, Christ was willing to show that anyone's final condemnation is not because God slams the gavel for the last time, but the very words of Jesus demonstrate the truth and all who reject the truth, accept the lies of the enemy and naturally, are convicted. It is not an arbitrary decision of God, but a intrinsic, natural condemnation. Whoever accepts Jesus has eternal life (v. 50) but unfortunately, those who do not accept, prefer death and darkness (John 3:19).

### **5) THE SERVANT LEADER AND THE NEW COMMANDMENT**

John 13:1-18

John is emphatic in affirming that Jesus had all the power, and knew that He had come from God and was returning to God. He wanted to show everyone that read his gospel that Jesus had complete sense of who he was, the act that followed this statement was made in full awareness of who He was. Jesus chose to kneel before his disciples and act in a way that only slaves did, which was to wash the feet of guests. Christ washed the feet of everyone there, including the feet of Judas, who would betray him in just a few hours. Perhaps it was this act that sealed the will of Judas in betraying Christ. For many, a God who humbles himself before his creatures is a weak God who does not deserve to have the power He has. The act that for many serves as the greatest demonstration of humility and love, leave others with anger and hatred. Even so, Christ is keen to show that no matter who you are, He loves you unconditionally regardless of your condition.

### **6) THE NATURE OF GOD'S LOVE**

John 13:31-35

Christ then begins to present his last words to his disciples about the Father about His kingdom and His form of government. All who want to follow Jesus must accept the simplicity of His kingdom, where love reigns, where humility is a natural form of government and where all the disciples of Jesus will be known by love.

V. 35, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

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