

The 1881 Advent Christian Declaration of Principles¹

1. We believe that the Scriptures, consisting of the Old and New Testament, contain the only divine system of religious faith.
2. We believe the Bible teaches that there is one God, eternal, almighty, the Father and Creator of all things.
3. We believe the Bible teaches that there is one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, having glory with the Father before the world was; who died and was buried, and rose again the third day, according to the Scriptures, and ascended to heaven, there to appear in the presence of God for us, from whence he will return to judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom.
4. We believe the Bible record of the Holy Spirit, sent as the Comforter to the church, and to convince the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.
5. We believe the Bible record of the creation of man, and that by disobedience to the divine law he fell from the state of uprightness in which he was created and involved himself and his posterity in death, the penalty of the violated law, which death would have been eternal without a Redeemer: that such Redeemer was provided by God in the person of his Son Jesus Christ, who died on the cross that he might

1. Ibid.

become the author of eternal salvation to all who obey him;—that this redemption is of a two-fold nature; first, the redemption of all men from the penalty of Adam's sin, by the resurrection of the dead; second, the redemption of believers from personal sin and its consequences by the blood of Jesus Christ, as it is written, 'In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins,' and the gift to them of eternal life, possessing which they shall not be hurt of the second death.

6. We believe in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as essential to eternal salvation.
7. We believe the Bible teaches that pardoned sinners should be 'buried with Christ in baptism,' this showing their faith in his resurrection and in the resurrection of the dead.
8. We believe in the observance of the Lord's Supper in accordance with the commandment of Christ, thereby showing faith in the Lord's death till he comes.
9. We believe that the Scriptures teach that this same Jesus, who was born in Bethlehem, crucified, buried, and rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and ascended to heaven, will return personally to this world to raise, judge and reward or punish all the human race.
10. We believe the Bible teaches that the finally impenitent shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power; and in the final extinction of all evil.
11. We believe that the fulfillment of the prophetic Scriptures, embracing the physical, moral, political and financial signs of the times, indicate that the return of the Saviour is near, even at the door and that the time has arrived when the subject should be made prominent by all preachers of the gospel.
12. We believe that this earth will share in the final redemption of men, and will become the eternal home of the redeemed, called in the Holy Scriptures the kingdom of God,— "a new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness."
13. We believe that the entire action of the Church, in council, in missionary labor, in public instruction, social worship, and communion, should be with direct reference to the crowning event, viz., the personal coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

14. We believe the Bible teaches that Christ is the Head of the church; and that all his disciples are but one body united in Christian love; and that Christian fellowship may exist where there are doctrinal diversities occasioned by lack of light on the points of difference.
15. We believe the Bible teaches that the true standard of Christian fellowship is such as to include all of Christ's disciples; and that the presence of the Holy Spirit is essential in order to secure true and permanent union.
16. We believe the Bible teaches that the churches of Christ should be duly organized by the election of proper officers, such as elders and deacons, and that the government of the church should be congregational.

The 1900 Advent Christian Declaration of Principles¹

- I. Article I: We believe that the Bible is the Word of God containing a revelation given to man under Divine supervision and providence; that its historic statements are correct, and that it is the only Divine standard of faith and practice. 2 Peter 1:21. 2 Tim 3:16.
- II. Article II: We believe, as revealed in the Bible—
- (a) In one God, our Father, eternal, and infinite in His wisdom, love and power, the Creator of all things, 'in whom we live, and move, and have our being.' Gen. 1:1. 1 Kings 8:27. Deut 4:39. Acts 17:28.
- (b) And in Jesus Christ, our Lord, the only begotten Son of God; who came into our world to seek and save that which was lost; who died for our sins, who was raised from the dead for our justification; who ascended into heaven as our High Priest and Mediator, and who will come again in the end of this age, to judge the living and the dead, and reign forever and ever.
- John 1:14; 3:16, 17. 1 John 4:9. Rom 4:25. Heb 7:26; 4:14. 2 Tim 4:1. Matt 13:39, 40.
- (c) And in the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, sent from God to convince the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment, whereby

1. Ibid.

we are sanctified and sealed unto the day of redemption. John 17:16, 17; 16:7-11. 2 Thess 2:13. Eph 4:30.

- III. Article III: We believe that man was created for immortality, but that through sin he forfeited his Divine birthright; that because of sin, death entered into the world, and passed upon all men; and that only through faith in Jesus Christ, the divinely ordained Life-giver, can men become 'partakers of the divine nature,' and live forever. Gen.3:22-24. Rom 5:12. Acts 4:12. 2 Peter 1:4.
- IV. Article IV: We believe that death is a condition of unconsciousness to all persons, righteous and wicked; a condition which will remain unchanged until the resurrection at Christ's second coming, at which time the righteous will receive everlasting life while the wicked will be 'punished with everlasting destruction'; suffering complete extinction of being. Eccl 9:10. Ps 115:117. 1 Thess 4:13-17. Matt 25:46.
- V. Article V: We believe that salvation is free to all those who, in this life and in this age, accept it on the conditions imposed, which conditions are simple and inflexible; namely, turning from sin, repentance toward God, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and a life of consecration to the service of God; thus excluding all hope of a future probation, or of universal salvation. 2 Cor 6:2. Acts 2:38. Rom 10: 8-10. Titus 2:11-14.
- VI. Article VI: We believe that Jesus Christ, according to His promise, will come again to this earth, even 'in like manner' as He went into heaven—personally, visibly and gloriously— to reign here forever; and that this coming is the hope of the Church, inasmuch as upon that coming depends the resurrection and reward of the righteous, the abolition of sin and its consequences, and the renewal of the earth—now marred by sin—to become the eternal home of the redeemed, after which event the earth will be forever free from sin and death. Acts 1:11. 1 Thess 4:16. Dan 7:13-14. Rom 8:18-23. Dan 2:44. 2 Pet 3:13.
- VII. Article VII: We believe that Bible prophecy has indicated the approximate time of Christ's return; and comparing its testimony with the signs of our times, we are confident that He is near, 'even at the doors,' and we believe that the great duty of the hour is the proclamation of this soon coming redemption, the defense of Bible authority, inspiration and truth and the salvation of lost man. Matt 24:32, 33, 45-47.

- VIII. Article VIII: We believe the Church of Christ is an institution of Divine origin, which includes all true Christians, of whatever name; but that local Church organizations should be independent of outside control, congregational in government, and subject to no dictation of priest, bishop or pope—although true fellowship and unity of action should exist between all such organizations. Matt 16:18. 1 Cor 12:12, 13.
- IX. Article IX: We believe the only ordinances of the Church of Christ are Baptism and the Lord's Supper; immersion being the only true baptism. Rom 6:4. Acts 8:38. Matt 26:26-29. 1 Cor 11:23, 24.
- X. Article X: We believe that the first day of the week, as the day set apart by the early Church in commemoration of Christ's resurrection, should be observed as the Christian Sabbath, and used as a day of rest and religious worship. Acts 20:7. John 20:19. 1 Cor 16:2.