

Pathway Baptist Church
Fayetteville, Arkansas

The Pathway Class
Fall 2018

Discussing the beliefs, vision, and practices of
Pathway Baptist Church

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Pathway Class
Pathway Baptist Church – Fayetteville, Arkansas

Session One

Salvation through Jesus Christ

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

SALVATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

Salvation is an act of God in which one is delivered from sin and its eternal consequence. Having a salvation experience is a prerequisite to obeying the commands of God. The objective of this session is to ensure a genuine salvation experience according to the Biblical teachings on the subject. This session will focus on the following two questions.

How does one experience salvation? What does eternal security of the believer mean?

HOW DOES A PERSON EXPERIENCE SALVATION ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES?

1. A person must realize and admit his sin condition.

- Sin on earth was initiated in the Garden of Eden. (Genesis 3:1-15)
- Since the fall of Adam every person has been born a sinner due to inheriting it from his or her father. (Psalm 51:5, Rom 5:12)
- Every person has a sin problem and there is nothing he can do to fix it in his own power. (Isaiah 64:6, Romans 3:23)

Romans 3:23 “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”

2. A person must know there is a penalty for sin. (Romans 6:23)

- The wages or penalty for sin is both physical and spiritual death.
- A person, who is born once, dies twice. A person who is born twice, dies only once. (John 3:1-6, John 1:1-5, John 5:24)
- The natural physical death. (Hebrews 9:27)
- The eternal spiritual death. (Revelation 21:8)

3. A person must accept and receive Jesus Christ as Savior.

- Jesus paid the sin debt of all mankind out of love. (John 3:16, John 10:17-18)
- Jesus literally became our substitute. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin *to be sin for us*, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

4. Salvation is by grace, nothing we can earn, and is available to all who have ever lived.

- Jesus' death on the cross is a demonstration of grace. (Ephesians 2:6-10)
- **Grace** is defined as unmerited favor. We do not deserve it. (Rom 5:8, 3:21-26)
- God's offer of salvation is to everyone. (John 12:32, 1Tim 2:3-6, 2Pe 3:9, 1Jo 2:2)

2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

- Predestination and election are according to the foreknowledge of God and do not remove the opportunity for anyone to be saved. (1Pe 1:1-2, Eph 1:4-6, Ro 8:28-30)

Ephesians 1:4-6 "For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves."

1 Peter 1:1-2 (KJV) "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ²elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father..."

(NIV) "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God..."

5. A person must repent and believe to experience salvation from sin and its punishment.

- Without repentance spiritual death is sure (Luke 13:3, Revelation 20:15)
Luke 13:3 "I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."
- To repent means to change your mind or direction. It's not "fixing" all of our sin issues but rather repenting from our state of rejection of the Holy Spirit's conviction.
- The word translated as *believe* in John 3:16 is from the Greek word PISTOS. It literally means to trust or put confidence in someone or something.
- Salvation takes place at the moment one trusts in Jesus Christ as Savior. (John 1:12, 3:14-18, 5:24, 6:35-47, 8:24, 11:25-26, Titus 3:1-7)

Titus 3:4-7 "⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

John 5:24 "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life."

- To repent and believe is expressed by calling out to God. (Romans 10:9-10,13)

Romans 10:13 "for, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"

Salvation takes place the moment a person turns from his sin and self and places their faith in Jesus Christ. By calling out to Him one is born again and is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Once you are truly 'born again', nothing can take that away from you. When the new birth takes place the individual's name is permanently written in the Lamb's book of Life. (Revelation 20:15)

WHAT DOES ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER MEAN?

The Bible teaching of eternal security simply states once a person has genuinely put their faith in Christ for salvation, that salvation cannot be taken from him or lost by him. God is the giver of salvation, and the keeper! This is evident for many reasons.

1. Jesus used the terms eternal and everlasting repeatedly when speaking of salvation. (John 3:15-18, 4:14, 5:24, 6:40, 47, 51)
2. There is one sin that is not forgiven and that is rejecting the offer of salvation. (Mark 3:28-29)

Mark 3:28-29 “²⁸I tell you the truth, all the sins and blasphemies of men will be forgiven them. ²⁹But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin.”

3. Once a person truly believes in Christ, their salvation is forever determined (John 5:24)
4. To believe that you can lose your salvation is to believe that you can **work** for it. (Titus 3:4-7, Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 4:1-5; 13-17, Romans 11:5-6)

Titus 3:4-5 “But—When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit.”

5. Eternal Security is a promise to believers from God and is guaranteed, or sealed, by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14)

Ephesians 1:13-14 “...Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory....”

6. We do not have the power to save ourselves nor keep ourselves. No one can take us away from God. (2 Tim 1:12, Jude 24-25, John 10:27-31, Philippians 1:6, 1 Peter 1:3-5, Rom 8:38-39)
7. There is nothing we can do to lose our salvation. (2 Corinthians 5:16-21)

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.

We can rest in the hands of God knowing that He does the SAVING and the KEEPING.

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Session Two

Baptism According to the Bible

BAPTISM ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE

“So those who received his word were baptized...” **Acts 2:41**

The act of baptism is not manmade, but God ordained. Baptism is a beautiful way of showing that you are not ashamed of Jesus. “So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven.” **Matthew 10:32**

I. Biblical Baptism - There are three basic things that must be in place

1. A person must be saved before they get baptized. **Acts 2:41**

There is nowhere in the Bible that suggests anyone should be baptized before they first repent of their sins. Every example of baptism mentions that the person(s) first believed. A person must first come to the realization that they are a sinner, believe on Jesus as Savior, and then they could be baptized.

In the early church, baptism was often withheld from a person until they spent a considerable amount of time in prayer and study. In opposition to baptizing children (not infants) who had believed, Salmasius and Suicerus said, “For the first two ages no one received baptism who was not first instructed in the faith and doctrine of Christ, so as to be able to answer for himself that he believed, because of those words, ‘He that believeth and is baptized.’”. (Antiquities of the Christian Church, Book XI. Chap. IV, sec. 5.)

2. A person must be immersed when they get baptized.

- The Greek word for baptism is *BAPTIZO* and it means to dip, immerse, or submerge.
- Baptism represents the death, burial, & resurrection of Jesus **Romans 6:4, Colossians 2:12**

The act of baptism required “plenty of water” - **John 3:23**

- It is a historically agreed upon fact, even by most who don't practice as such today, that baptism in Bible times was by complete immersion.

3. A person must be baptized by a Bible believing New Testament church.

- God has always carried out the Great Commission through the New Testament church.

- Jesus commanded his church to baptize those who believed on Him.
Matthew 28:19-20

We believe Jesus gave authority to his church and not the apostles because he promised to be present with them until the end of the age. Since the age is not yet over, and the apostles are dead, we must conclude that only New Testament churches who uphold and practice Biblical teachings have the authority to baptize.

II. Whose Baptism Will Pathway Baptist Church Accept?

Pathway will accept the baptism conducted by a church who believes, practices, and accepts the same teachings of salvation and baptism.

If a person's baptism was performed by a church who does not believe, practice, and accept the same teachings of baptism then Pathway will re-baptize that person. This is not done as a rejection of the person's baptism as much as it is keeping with the Biblical and historical accounts of re-baptizing those where question remains as to whether they previously received it properly.

What was the reason the baptisms of believers in Ephesus weren't accepted? It was the same baptism that Jesus and His disciples received so why wasn't it enough?

Acts 19:1-6

- 1 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples
- 2 and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."
- 3 So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied.
- 4 Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus."
- 5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
- 6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

- Paul re-baptized a group of believers at Ephesus who had received the baptism of John, the same as Jesus & His disciples had. However in the case of these Ephesians, they had been unaware that Jesus was the promised Messiah. Their mode, methods, and intentions were pure but they still had to be re-baptized.
- Historically Christians who became known as "Baptists" were called so because they rejected infant baptism and they re-baptized people who came to join their churches.

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Session Three

Church Unity

"Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?"
Amos 3:3

Church Unity

Unity among believers is vital for the success of any church. Without unity a church will fail to carry out her purpose on earth. Unity is the glue that holds a church together. "Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, 'Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand.'" **Matthew 12:25**

In this session we will discuss the following three parts of unity.

- I. **Unity in Spirit**
- II. **Unity in Doctrine**
- III. **Unity in Practice**

I. **UNITY IN SPIRIT (spiritual connection)**

"**1** As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. **2** Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. **3** Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." **Ephesians 4:1-3**

- a. In order to have "unity in Spirit" each member must walk worthy of his vocation.
 1. God has called each individual in the church to a place of service.
 2. Each member should concentrate on their vocation from God.
 - a. When everyone is busy doing their job there will be no time for strife or division.
 - b. When everyone is working hard, God's blessings remind the church of His goodness which then curtails grumbling and complaining that would otherwise occur.
- b. In order to have "unity in Spirit", each member must be lowly and meek.
 1. To be lowly means to respond in humiliation of mind.
 2. To be meek is to respond in gentleness.

- c. In order to have “unity in Spirit” each member must be longsuffering, forbearing one another in love.
1. Longsuffering means to endure without anger. Church members should be patient with one another.
 2. “in love” means to have unconditional affection for one another.
 3. There are going to be times when church members do not see eye to eye on every little detail. Many times we have to agree to disagree and move on for the cause of Christ.
- d. In order to have “unity in Spirit” each member must endeavor to keep the unity.
1. To endeavor means to MAKE AN EFFORT. Unity in a relationship, family, and in a church takes hard work.

II. UNITY IN DOCTRINE (connection by Truth)

There must be agreement on the major doctrinal teachings of the scriptures. This does not mean everyone will agree on each little point in the Bible. However, if there are major differences concerning fundamental teachings it will be hard to keep harmony in the body.

- A. Each church member should learn our fundamental statements of faith. **(1 Peter 2:2)**
- B. Each church member should study the scriptures in order to know why he believes what he claims to believe. **(2 Timothy 2:15)**

See attached Doctrinal Statement

- C. Members should agree on the two ordinances of the church: Baptism (see session 2) and the Lord's Supper.
 - The Lord's Supper is performed using unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine as a picture of Jesus' body and blood which was given for our salvation. **Luke 22:14-20**
 - A person must examine themselves as worthy before partaking. **1 Cor 11: 20-31**

(1 Cor 11: 27-29) 27 Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. **28** A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. **29** For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

- Pathway practices closed communion (local members only) because we believe the church refers to the local body of believers. Also, the church was instructed to not eat with people who were sinning openly. This discernment can only be performed within the local church congregation. **1 Cor 5: 7-13**

7 Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. **8** Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth. **9** I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— **10** not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. **11** But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat. **12** What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? **13** God will judge those outside. “Expel the wicked man from among you.”

III. UNITY IN PRACTICE (connection by action)

Doctrine is what a church believes and teaches. Practice is how a church puts feet on the doctrine she believes. It is not enough to talk the talk, each member must walk the walk. “But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’”

(1 Peter 1:15-16)

The purpose of **Pathway Baptist Church** is to carry out “the Great Commission of Christ.” Matthew 28:18-20

1. We work for the salvation of souls.
2. We baptize those who accept Christ as Savior.
3. We teach believers to observe all things the Lord has commanded us.
4. We promote, pray, help physically, and give to missions (church planting).

If everyone in the church maintains an intimate relationship with Jesus by practicing the life of Christ, the joy that comes will be inevitable!

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Session Four

Core Idea: Faithfulness

**“What is my responsibility
in the church?”**

FAITHFULNESS – WHAT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY IN THE CHURCH?

Becoming a part of a church is a privilege, but carries much responsibility. Each church member has a part in carrying out the ministry of the church. In this session we will observe five general areas of faithfulness.

1. Faithfulness in Attendance. Hebrews 10:25

- Church members should attend worship meetings on a regular basis. Everyone should be careful not to allow distractions in this area of faithfulness.
- There are many reasons we should be faithful in attendance. **Acts 2:41-47**
 - a. To worship God with other believers
 - b. To be encouraged and to encourage others
 - c. To learn more about the Word of God
 - d. To fellowship with other believers
 - e. Simply because God commands faithfulness in attendance

2. Faithfulness in Living. Colossians 3:17

- A church member's lifestyle is a witness for or against the LORD and HIS church.
- The Bible gives us standards for living and we should give our best in order to live a life of purity by keeping these standards. **John 17:15-19, Ephesians 3:21-4:3**
- The home should be the base of morality and not the church. Parents should live a holy example before their kids in the home. **Joshua 24:15**
- Children should obey their parents and honor God in the home. **Ephesians 6:1-3**

3. Faithfulness in Giving.

- God has always supported the ministry of Kingdom work by commanding His people to give back a portion of what He has provided them.

- The Bible teaches tithing.
 - a. To word tithe means 10% of overall income.
 - b. People tithed before the Law of Moses. (**Genesis 14:19-20, 28:22**)
 - c. The tithe and even additional offerings were required during the Law age. **Leviticus 27:30**
 - d. God's view of giving is clearly stated in **2 Corinthians 9:6-8**.

If tithing and more was the example of Old Testament times, and God says in the New Testament that he wants us to give bountifully and cheerfully, what do you think is the minimum requirement by God?

- e. Giving is between the individual and God. No one at Pathway is forced to give, although it is a requirement in which God will hold us accountable.

4. Faithfulness in Ministry

- God not only wants to be a blessing to us through the church, but He also wants us to be a blessing to others through the church. This is accomplished by every member participating in the ministry of the church.
- How can I know what my role in the church should be?
 1. Ask God through prayer
 2. Consider your talents
 3. Consider what kinds of things you enjoy doing
 4. Consider training you have had
 5. Seek wise counsel
- If a church is going to reach the highest point of God's will, every part of the body must be working together. **I Corinthians 12:14-27, Romans 12:1-8**

5. Faithfulness in Evangelism

- Every church member should be actively sharing his/her faith in Christ. It is not solely the responsibility of the church staff or leaders to evangelize the community.
- Besides personal evangelism every member is encouraged to participate in organized evangelism.

The Pathway Class

Pathway Baptist Church *Fayetteville, Arkansas*

While this series of lessons do not cover all Christian teachings, it provides a solid foundation on the most important doctrines of individual faith and scriptural church work. If this material is beneficial to you individually or to your church, please take it, use it, change it, and tailor it meet the needs of your ministry. For more information or for the source documents for this series, please contact Pathway Baptist Church.

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Creating a community that is equipped to bring Christ to our city

Our Guiding Principles

Loving God: God's overwhelming love and grace that He offers us should motivate a response to completely give Him our hearts. We can not truly love God without striving to serve Him.

Loving Others: Our love for others should mirror God's for us. It must be given unconditionally with their best interest in mind. We are to give of ourselves to others as God has given to us.

Meaningful Worship: True worship occurs when we open our hearts to celebrate what God has done in our life. God deserves more than we can ever give. It is His desire that we worship Him. Worship brings us into His presence.

Continual Prayer: Communication is essential for developing our relationship with God. We grow stronger in Him when we constantly praise who God is, confess what we need forgiven, and plead for God to work in our lives and the lives of others. We must take time to speak to God and spend time listening to His direction.

Personal Relationships: Developing authentic community within our church family is essential to spiritual growth. Accountability, intercession, mutual care, and fostering a sense of belonging are best achieved through loving relationships with each other.

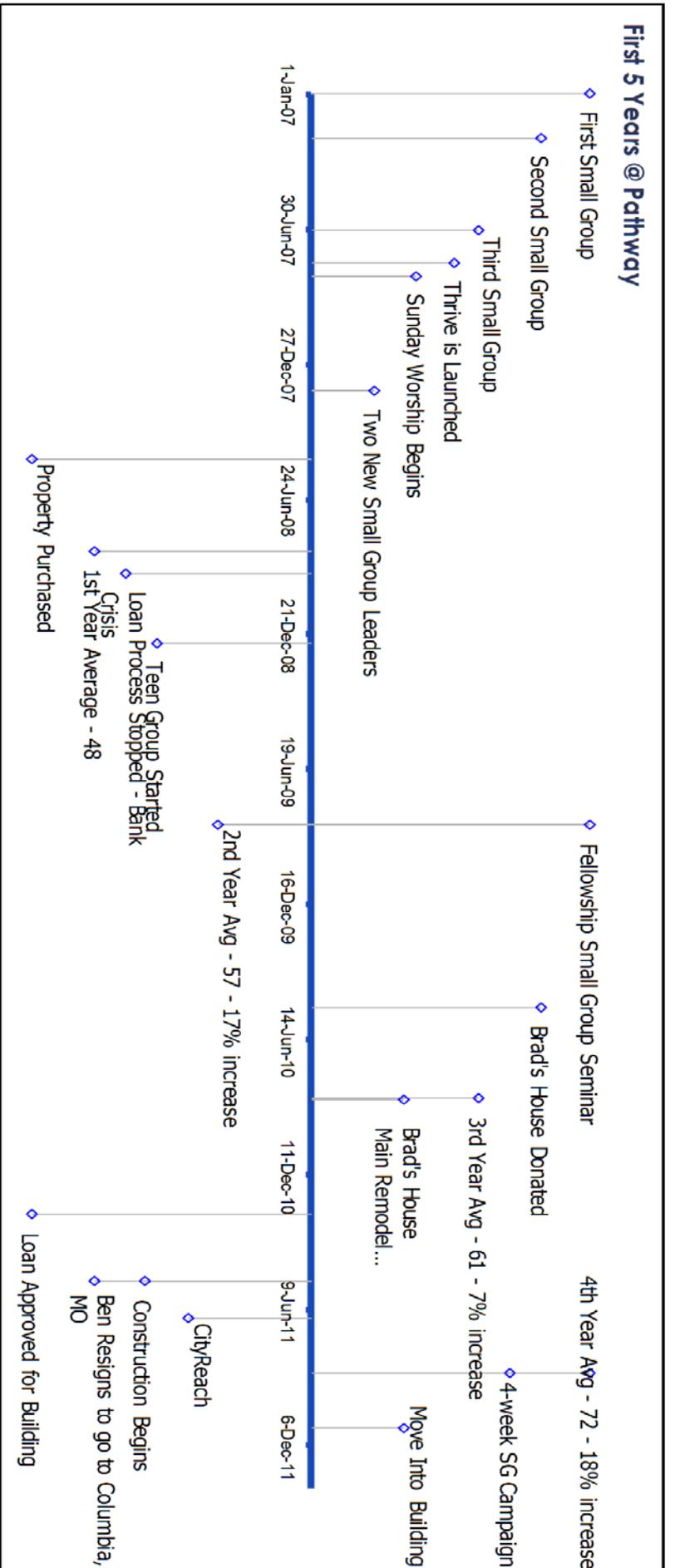
Serving with Excellence: Striving to serve God with excellence brings honor to God and inspires people to do the same. Working to benefit God's kingdom should be done with a clear purpose and results in mind.

Integrity and Relevance: We believe that God's people should not have to sacrifice Biblical integrity or cultural relevance in their pursuit to worship God and reach their community. Spiritual church growth requires dedication to both principles.

Basis for Truth: God is Truth and He has displayed it to the world through His scripture, the Bible. Everything we do as a church family and as individuals must focus on living out the Truth of God in our lives.

Sharing our Faith: The life of Jesus Christ demonstrated the importance for believers to share the hope of salvation. Intentionally building relationships with non-believers along with other methods of evangelism should be a cornerstone of our daily life. We have been sent to let others know of the hope only found through faith in Jesus Christ.

First 5 Years @ Pathway



We often get asked about how Pathway began. It all started in January 2007 with our first small group of 5 adults. At the beginning we had 5 adults, 5 kids, and 1 college student committed to begin this ministry. Along with those eleven in Fayetteville, the Hightower family planned to move when they finished seminary in May 2007. It was always our plan to make Small Groups the core of what we do. Once we had multiple groups meeting we began our Sunday worship services in September 2007.

The timeline to the right shows some of our milestones along the way leading up to the finished construction of our current worship center in December 2011. While there are many other milestones past that date (launching PathwayKIDS, FUSE teen ministry, merging Thrive with another college ministry, expanding our small groups and ordaining our first deacons) this will hopefully give you an idea about the early steps in the life of Pathway that brought us here today.

It has been a long road to get to this point but God has blessed our church family tremendously along the way. If you'd like to know more about our beginnings, vision, and future plans just ask. We love sharing what God is continuing to do through Pathway.

Our Property & Development

Pathway owns 14.686 acres of property, stretching from Mt. Comfort Road to the north down to Hamstring Creek at the south. Our western border includes the land which we purchased and will have to develop & donate to the city of Fayetteville for the expansion of Salem Road. Our eastern border is mainly the property line between Pathway and the Mt. Comfort Church of Christ property.

Pathway owns the building containing our worship center & leased space, the house east of our parking lot (the Brown House) which contains our offices & FUSE teen ministry meeting space, and the open property south of our parking lot towards the creek. We expanded our parking lot by adding 54 parking spaces SE of the current parking lot. We expanded our ADA Compliant spaces near the worship center from 4 spots to 10 as we also sealed and re-striped the existing lot. A new storage building was constructed south of the Brown House. Now that this is completed, we have the facilities and parking to accommodate 225-250 people in a single worship service, with a total of 425-450 in multi-service attendance without any mandatory expansion.

We also have the option to build on the 9,000 sf of green space along Mt. Comfort Road. This area could be developed into more classroom space, a larger kids worship area / teen ministry worship area, offices, or commercial leased space. We also have plans ready to expand the FUSE garage.

We have flexible plans on our future development that let us balance our needs and our ability for physical expansion.



Pathway Baptist Church – Doctrinal Statement

The Bible

- We believe in the infallible, verbal inspiration of the whole Bible and that the Bible is the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice (Psalm 119:160; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17).

God

- We believe in the personal triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, equal in divine perfection (Matt. 28:19).
- We believe in the virgin birth and sinless humanity of Jesus Christ (Matt. 1:18-20; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Peter 2:22).
- We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ (John 10:30; John 1:1, 14; 2 Cor. 5:19).
- We believe the Holy Spirit is the divine Administrator for Jesus Christ in His churches (Luke 24:49; John 14:16, 17; Acts 1:4, 5, 8; Acts 2:1-4).
- We believe in the premillennial, personal, bodily return of Christ as the crowning event of the Gentile age. This event will include the resurrection of the righteous to eternal heaven, and the Millennium will be followed by the resurrection of the unrighteous unto eternal punishment in the lake of fire and that the righteous shall enter into the heaven age (John 14:1-6; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 2 Thess. 2:8; Rev. 19; Rev. 20:4-6; Rev. 20:11-15; Rev. 21:8).

Salvation & Sin

- We believe that Man was created in the image of God and lived in innocence until he fell by voluntary transgression from his sinless state, the result being that all mankind are sinners (Gen. 1:26; Gen. 3:6-24; Rom. 5:12, 19).
- We believe that the suffering and death of Jesus Christ was substitutionary for all mankind and is applied only to those who believe (Isa. 53:6; Heb. 2:9; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 Peter 3:18; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 John 2:2).
- We believe that the depraved sinner is saved wholly by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, and the requisites to regeneration are repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 13:3-5; John 3:16-18; Acts 20:21; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8, 9), and that the Holy Spirit convicts sinners, regenerates, seals, secures, and indwells every believer (John 3:6; John 16:8, 9; Rom. 8:9-11; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; Eph. 4:30; Titus 3:5).
- We believe that all who trust Jesus Christ for salvation are eternally secure in Him and shall not perish (John 3:36; John 5:24; John 10:27-30; Rom. 8:35-39; Heb. 10:39; 1 Peter 1:5).

The Saved & The Church

- We believe that God deals with believers as His children, that He chastises the disobedient, and that He rewards the obedient (Matt. 16:27; Matt. 25:14-23; John 1:12; Heb. 12:5-11; 2 John 8; Rev. 22:12).

- We believe that Jesus Christ established His church during His ministry on earth and that it is always a local, visible assembly of scripturally baptized believers in covenant relationship to carry out the Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ, and each church is an independent, self-governing body, and no other ecclesiastical body may exercise authority over it. We believe that Jesus Christ gave the Great Commission to the New Testament churches only, and that He promised the perpetuity of His churches (Matt. 4:18-22; Matt. 16:18; Matt. 28:19, 20; Mark 1:14-20; John 1:35-51; Eph. 3:21).
- We believe that there are two pictorial ordinances in the Lord's churches: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Scriptural baptism is the immersion of penitent believers in water, administered by the authority of a New Testament church in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Lord's Supper is a memorial ordinance, restricted to the members of the church observing the ordinance (Matt. 28:19, 20; Acts 8:12, 38; Rom. 6:4; 1 Cor. 5:11-13; 1 Cor. 11:1, 2, 17-20, 26).
- We believe that there are two divinely appointed offices in a church, pastors and deacons, to be filled by men whose qualifications are set forth in Titus and 1 Timothy.
- We believe that all associations, fellowships, and committees are, and properly should be, servants of, and under control of the churches (Matt. 20:25-28).
- We believe in freedom of worship without interference from the government and affirm our belief in civil obedience, unless the laws and regulations of civil government run contrary to the Holy Scriptures (Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-15).

Spiritual Gifts

- We believe that miraculous spiritual manifestation gifts were done away when the Bible was completed. Faith, Hope and Love are the vital abiding Spiritual Gifts (1 Cor. chapters 12-14).

Love

- We believe that love one for another as Jesus loves the believer manifests our discipleship, proves our love for God and symbolizes our authority as New Testament churches. Love is therefore the great commandment of the LORD Jesus Christ upon which all others are dependent (Matt. 22:35-40; John 13:34, 35; John 15:12; 1 John 4:7-21; 1 John 5:1-3; Rev. 2:4, 5).

Creation

- We believe in the Genesis account of Creation (Gen. 1; 2).

Satan

- We believe that Satan is a fallen angel, the archenemy of God and man, the unholy god of this world, and that his destiny is the eternal lake of fire (Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:11-19; Matt. 25:41; 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 6:10-17; Rev. 20:10).

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