

## *Wilson Declaration*

### *I. Of the Holy Scriptures*

The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the very words of the one true God and are the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience. Although there be certain things in Scripture which are hard to understand, all things necessary to be known unto everlasting salvation are clearly contained therein. It is therefore incumbent upon every person to read and obey the Scriptures.

### *II. Of God*

There is only one God, whom we are to both worship and serve, and in whom we are to put all our faith and hope. There are three Persons, or Subsistences, in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who are equal in nature, power, and glory. The Son and the Holy Spirit are as truly and as properly God as the Father.

### *III. Of Creation*

God, when it seemed good to him, created heaven and earth and all other creatures from nothing, by the Word—that is to say, by the Son. He did this in the space of six days, all things created being very good.

### *IV. Of Christ Jesus*

The Son of God, the second person in the Holy Trinity, being very and eternal God, the brightness of the Father's glory, of one substance and equal with him, who made the world, who upholds and governs all things he has made, did, when the fullness of time came, take upon himself man's nature, with all the essential properties and common infirmities thereof, yet without sin. In him two whole, perfect, and distinct natures were inseparably joined together in one person—which person is very God and very man, yet one Christ, the only mediator between God and man.

### *V. Of Man's Depravity*

Because of the Fall, man is now spiritually dead, blind, and deaf to the things of God and is therefore unable of himself to choose spiritual good and determine his own destiny. In our natural state we are averse to all that is good, wholly defiled in all the faculties and parts of soul and body, and are by nature children of wrath. We are at enmity with God, unwilling and unable to love, worship, or submit to him.

### *VI. Of Sovereign Election*

Before the world began, God did graciously and freely elect a certain number of people unto everlasting salvation, whom he did predestinate to the adoption of children by Jesus Christ, of his own grace, and according to the good pleasure of his will. God's choice of certain individuals for salvation was not based on any foreseen response of obedience on their part, but was based solely in his good and sovereign will.

### *VII. Of the Efficacy of the Atonement*

The eternal redemption which Christ has obtained, by the shedding of his blood and his glorious resurrection to life again, is special and particular, that is to say, that it was only intentionally designed for the elect of God, and sheep of Christ, who only share the special and peculiar blessings of it and whose salvation was secured by it. The doctrine of the efficacy of the atonement is fully harmonious with fervent evangelistic zeal and missionary efforts, the Lamb being worthy to receive the full reward of his suffering.

### *VIII. Of Irresistible Grace*

Regeneration is not an act of man's free will and power, but of the sovereign, efficacious, and irresistible grace of God. The Holy Spirit gives spiritual life to a dead sinner, making him both willing and able to repent of sin and trust in Christ unto salvation. This giving of a holy disposition of love towards Christ is not based on any movement toward God by the sinner but solely on God's action towards him.

### *IX. Of the Perseverance of the Saints*

All who are chosen by God, redeemed by Christ, and regenerated by the Holy Spirit are eternally saved. They are kept in faith by the power of Almighty God and therefore continue to persevere in faith, bearing fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. He who began a good work in them will surely complete it.

### *X. Of Repentance and Faith*

Repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God, whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King, and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior.

### *XI. Of the Church*

A visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by his laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by his Word. Its only scriptural officers are Pastors and Deacons, voted upon by the common suffrage of the church itself.

### *XII. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper*

Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit; to show forth, in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried and Risen Savior. It is a baptism of repentance which demonstrates our desire to walk in newness of life. Baptism is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and communion in the Lord's Supper, wherein members of the church by use of bread and wine commemorate the dying of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination.

*XIII. Of the Harmony of the Law and the Gospel*

The Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government. It is holy, just, and good. The inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their sinful nature and love of wickedness—to deliver them from which, and to restore them through Christ to genuine obedience to the holy Law, is one great and glorious end of the Gospel.

*XIV. Of the World to Come*

The end of the world is approaching when there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust. Christ will come a second time to judge both the quick and the dead. The wicked will be consigned to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy.