



Refresh

Bible Study Magazine

Connecting God's
Word to Life Today

Statement of Faith

To the contributors of *Refresh*: Generally, our beliefs align with “The Baptist Faith and Message,” not because it’s Baptist, but because it seems to us that it reflects the whole counsel of God’s Word. But we think it’s a good idea to emphasize the following.

1. God

There is one God (*Isa 43:10-11; 44:6, 8b; 45:5-6, 18, 21-22; 46:9*), who is the Creator of the earth, the universe, and all things (*Isa 42:5, Eph 3:9, Col 1:16, Rev 4:11*). He is the God who is revealed to us in the Holy Bible.

There are 3 Persons of God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (*Matt 28:19, Matt 3:16-17, 2 Cor 13:14, 1 John 5:7*).

Jesus Christ is God (*John 20:28, John 1:1,14, John 10:30, 33, Col 2:9, Heb 1:8, Rev 1:17-18, Rev 2:8, Isa 9:6, Isa 7:14, 1 Tim 3:16*). He is the Head of the Church (*Eph 1:22*), and the Mediator (*Heb 8:6*) of the New Covenant (*Heb 8:10-12*) by which believers relate to God.

God interacts with believers in daily life in such roles as Savior, Father, Shepherd, Teacher, Encourager, Helper, and Comforter, among others.

2. God’s Plan of Salvation

A. God sovereignly chose:

- a) to make faith the requirement for salvation, more specifically in New Testament times, faith in His Son Jesus Christ, and
- b) to give every person a free will to accept or reject the truth and God’s offer of salvation.

God desires all men to be saved, and He has designed His plan of salvation accordingly. (The following verses are NKJV.)

1 Timothy 2:4 [God] who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Matthew 18:14 Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.



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There is some debate about the word that is translated “all” in 1 Tim 2:4—Strong’s #3956, *pas*—whether it means some of all types or groups, or whether it means everyone.

That same word for “all” is used 4 times in the Great Commission: “all authority,” “all nations,” “observe all things that I have commanded you,” “I am with you always” (Matt 28:18-20 NKJV). It is used once in Romans 3:23, “for all have sinned” (NKJV), and in several other verses where it would most likely be agreed that “all” means *all*.

The same word is translated “whoever” (NKJV) in John 3:16 and other verses that testify that God’s offer of salvation is extended to everyone, to “all” persons.

B. A person whom God has accepted into His family and kingdom can never lose his or her salvation (*John 10:27-29, 5:24, 6:40, 47, 3:15-16, 11:25-26; 1 John 2:25, 5:13, 20; Psalm 37:28, Isa 45:17, 55:3, 1Peter 1:5, Heb 7:25*).

3. **The Bible** is God-inspired, inerrant, and authoritative (*2 Tim 3:16*). It has no error regarding the truth of who God is, who we are apart from Him, who we can be by faith in Him, the plan of salvation, the certainty of eternal life by faith, the existence of angels and the devil, and so forth.
4. **The Church** is composed of believers, and they are members of God’s family and kingdom. Our mission and privilege is to know and love God (*John 17:3, Mark 12:30*), to keep growing in how well we know Him, and to relate to Him, believers, and nonbelievers according to the wisdom that He has given us in His Word.



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Wanted: Articles for *Refresh Bible Study Magazine*

If you are interested in submitting articles to *Refresh* in 2018, we would love to hear from you. Below is a list of topics for the six issues. Join us in contributing an encouraging Christian voice to our world today, and help us connect God's Word to life today.

The submission deadline for each issue is a month before the issue releases, with the exception of the February issue. Because of the holidays, the deadline for the February issue is January 8th.

1. **February 1** – The Promises of God
2. **April 15** – Faith and Love: Israel became a modern day nation almost seventy years ago, after the Jews suffered indescribable horrors during World War II. In honor of their anniversary this May, what evidence do we have today that faith and love are thriving? (Note: This is a new release date.)
3. **June 15** – Prayer
4. **August 15** – James: Practical Tips on Troubleshooting the Daily Christian Life (Pick any of the topics in the book of James for your devotion or article.)
5. **October 15** – Contributor's Choice
6. **December 3** – Christmas



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Writer Information and Guidelines

1. *Refresh Bible Study Magazine* is online only, and it's free.

2. We can't pay you. We can't even pay ourselves. Katy and I (Beebe) both will review articles, suggest edits if needed, and choose which articles to put together in the same issue. Katy will also be our main page layout designer (I'll do it when her schedule is too full), handle delivery of the magazine to e-mails through a service like Mail Chimp, and help promote the magazine.

3. Length of articles. Right now, about 800 words. We have a limit that the magazine's delivery service can handle, and we need to keep it under that limit. We use photos with every article so that increases the size of the magazine. If you need more than 800 words, submit your article and we will get back to you. Remember when you're busy, shorter articles can be refreshing to readers.

4. Send your article to lighthousebiblestudies@hotmail.com.

5. Pronouns referring to God. In your writing, please capitalize pronouns that refer to the Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit, as in the NKJV Bible and others. In Bible verses, the capitalization for these pronouns stays the same that your Bible version uses.

6. Bible verses and translation. If you quote a Bible verse in your writing, we need to know the reference and the Bible translation (NKJV, NIV, ESV, NASB, etc.), such as: "Whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16 NKJV).

The magazine's purpose is to connect God's Word to life today, so we try to have at least one Bible verse in every article, poem, or short story.

7. Permissions. We need written permission from you to use your articles. We can use a one-time permission form to cover all articles that you submit. It will be nonexclusive permission for *Refresh Bible Study Magazine*, a publication of Lighthouse Bible Studies, LLC, to distribute what you send us. The copyright, of course, stays with the author. If you need any permissions for what you include in your article, we'll need a copy of that so we can keep it on file.



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8. New contributors. We will need 4 things from you:

- a. A **signed permission form**. When you receive this form, you should also receive our Statement of Faith. Please review it to make sure we are on the same page. If you agree with the Statement of Faith, please sign the permission form and e-mail it back to us.
- b. A **head shot** of you. It can be taken with your regular camera if the photo has good lighting.
- c. Your **bio** of up to 30-60 words will go at the end of your article.
- d. You may include a **link** to your blog or website, if you have one.

9. Edit Your Work:

1. Use an interesting **lead-in** to capture your readers' attention.
(personal story, illustration, analogy, surprising statement, question, quotation, etc.)
2. Build what you write on accurate **theology**. If it's correct, the whole counsel of God will support it. This is our first priority, above excellent writing or reader appeal.
3. Craft your **content**.
 - a. Use a friendly and encouraging "**voice**." If you are writing about a problem, don't assume your reader has it. Don't scold them for not overcoming it. Nothing "preachy."
 - b. Be clear and concise, but be effective. Outlines can help craft a dynamite **flow of thought**.
 - c. Eliminate **distractions**.
 - d. **Show**, as much as you can, rather than *tell*. Illustrate or emphasize your point in such a way that makes it more memorable.
 - e. **The goal** is tight, focused, meaningful writing that comes between a great hook or lead-in, and an ending that is worth staying for—make it sing!
4. Spend a little time developing a catchy or intriguing **title**, or ask someone for their ideas. We don't want readers to move past your article.
5. Following a few **formatting guidelines** will save us time.
 - a. 1" margin on all sides
 - b. Times New Romans font, 12 pt. For some reason I can take in more of what you're saying with this font, so I change everything to TNR.
 - c. No double spaces after periods, please. Otherwise I have to turn the magnification up to 160% and hunt them down.
 - d. We use the *Chicago Manual of Style* form for citations, such as:
 1. Author's name in normal order, *Name of the book in italics* (City of the publisher, State: Publisher, Year it was published), Page #.



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The state is normally abbreviated, but not with the two letters that the Post Office uses.

Tennessee is Tenn. for citations, not TN. The page number is just the number without “page.” If you are citing an article or a note from a Bible, the translation goes after the name of the Bible.

Thank you for your interest in writing for *Refresh Bible Study Magazine*, and for wanting to contribute to an encouraging Christian voice in the world today. We look forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

God bless you,
Beebe Kauffman
Chief Editor