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# Preamble

WHEREAS, It is the express purpose of God, our heavenly Father, to call out of the world a saved people who shall constitute the body of the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ, built and established upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone; and,

WHEREAS, God having ordained that this universal church should find its expression in and through local churches, enjoining them to assemble together for worship, fellowship, counsel, instruction, ministry, and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we whose names appear on the church roster on this date do recognize ourselves as a local church under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ, first organized as such on February 9, 1925, and do hereby adopt the following articles of church order to supersede any and all prior rules of church order.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2010.

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Pastor and President  
Portland Christian Center

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Secretary  
Portland Christian Center

# Constitution

## ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this church shall be Portland Christian Center, city of Portland, state of Oregon.

## ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

Section One - To establish and maintain a place of worship of the almighty God, our heavenly Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, through the Holy Spirit, and for the promotion of close Christian fellowship and edification.

Section Two - To obey in our capacity the "Great Commission" (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20; Acts 1:8; 8:4).

## ARTICLE III - PRINCIPLES

Section One - We hold as Scriptural and fundamental that form of church government which is a voluntary cooperative fellowship among equals, the local church being sovereign under Christ.

Section Two - The Bible, the Word of God, is to be held in the spirit of Christ, supreme in all matters.

Section Three - We hold it as basic that every Christian should endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace "until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." Ephesians 4:13 (NIV).

## **ARTICLE IV - PREROGATIVES**

In assuming the responsibility of the maintenance of scriptural order in the local body, we reserve the following prerogatives:

Section One - To have a membership which is determined by the local church, and to discipline members according to the Scriptures.

Section Two - To [choose or] call the Pastor, elect officers and transact all business appertaining to the life and conduct of the local church.

Section Three - To establish and maintain such departments and institutions as may be deemed necessary for the propagation of the Gospel and for the work of the local church.

Section Four - To acquire, own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of such property, real, or chattel, as may be needed.

## **ARTICLE V - AFFILIATION**

Section One - While maintaining its inherent right[s] to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs, this church shall voluntarily enter into or withdraw from full cooperative fellowship with churches of like precious faith in the Assemblies of God, Oregon District; and shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities of that affiliation.

Section Two - We hereby declare our unswerving loyalty to the government of the United States of America and affirm our fixed purpose to assist it in every way morally possible, consistent with our faith.

## **ARTICLE VI - TENETS OF FAITH**

This church shall accept the Holy Scriptures as the revealed will of God, the all sufficient rule of faith and practice, and for the purpose of maintaining general unity, adopts the "Statement of Fundamental Truths" approved by the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

## **ARTICLE VII - MEMBERSHIP**

Individuals shall be eligible for membership in this church if they demonstrate a personal, living faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; they voluntarily subscribe to its tenets of faith; and they agree to be governed by its constitution and bylaws as herein set forth.

## **ARTICLE VIII - GOVERNMENT**

The corporate officers of this church shall be the Pastor/President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. The official Board shall consist of the Pastor as Chairman, the Treasurer, the Secretary, and six Deacons.

## **ARTICLE IX - MEETINGS**

There shall be an annual business meeting of the church at which time reports shall be given, officers shall be ratified, and Deacons shall be elected. Due notice thereof shall be given on the two Sundays prior.

## **ARTICLE X - FINANCES**

The church shall be financed according to the Scriptural method by tithes and offerings (Malachi 3:10; Matthew 23:23; Hebrews 7:4-9).

## **ARTICLE XI - PROPERTY**

All property of the church shall be deeded to the church and held in its name.

## **ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any regular or special business meeting of the church by a two-thirds majority vote of the membership thereof present, provided the meeting has been properly announced on the two Sundays prior and that the proposed amendment has been posted in the church office over the same period.

# Bylaws

## ARTICLE I - Membership

### SECTION ONE - Standard of Membership

The membership standards of this church shall be:

- A. Evidence of a genuine experience in regeneration [the new birth] (John 1:12-13; 1 Peter 1:18-25).
- B. Evidence of a consistent Christian life (Romans 6:4; 13:13-14; Ephesians 4:1-2; 15-32; 1 John 1:6-7).
- C. Full subscription to the tenets of faith as specified by the constitution.
- D. Willingness to contribute regularly to the support of the church according to his ability (Malachi 3:18-20; Matthew 23:23; Luke 6:38; I Corinthians 16:2; II Corinthians 9:6-8).

### SECTION TWO - Voting Privilege

All members, 18 years of age or older, constitute the legal voting membership of the church.

### SECTION THREE - Reception of Members

- A. Persons desiring to become active members of this church shall attend the New Members Class. All applicants and applications shall be examined by the Board in accordance with the standards of membership. Upon the recommendation of the examiner, the Board shall consider the written applications, on forms approved by the Board, and the names of those approved for membership shall be added to the roster of active members, and they shall be recognized publicly before the congregation.
- B. Associate membership status shall be available to young people at 14 years of age. Those desiring to become associate members must complete the New Members Class. The same procedures will be followed as described in the adult

membership guidelines of Section A. Associate members will not have voting privileges. Upon reaching the age of 18, associate members will be offered full membership according to Article I - Membership, Section 1 - Standards of Membership.

- C. The Pastor and his spouse shall by virtue of election be deemed to be active voting members of this church. The Pastoral Staff and their respective spouses, by virtue of their ratification by the Board, shall be deemed to be active voting members of this church. Such membership will terminate with their respective office unless continued membership is approved by the Board.

#### **SECTION FOUR - Discipline and Revision of Roster**

- A. Membership shall be renewed annually by all members. Failure to renew within the specified time will result in an automatic removal from the membership roster. Reinstatement may be initiated upon request, in writing to the Board. If no reasons are known for denying such a request, membership shall be granted upon approval of the church Board.
- B. Any member of the church who is willfully absent from the regular services for a period of three consecutive months, or who shall be under charges, shall be temporarily suspended from voting privileges pending investigation and final decision in his or her case.
- C. Unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith held by this church shall be considered sufficient grounds upon which any persons may be disqualified as a member. Such discipline shall be prayerfully administered according to the scriptures (Matthew 18:15-17; Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; 2 Thessalonians 3:11-15).
- D. The Board shall be authorized to examine the membership roster of the church and to remove the names of those who have not renewed their membership, have died, have withdrawn from the fellowship, or have acted inconsistent with the tenets of faith held by the church. Notification of any change of membership status shall be mailed to the last known address of the member within 30 days of such action.

## **ARTICLE II - Government Duties and Qualifications**

### **SECTION ONE - The Pastor/President**

- A. DUTIES : The church finds its headship, under the Lord Jesus Christ, in its Senior Pastor (referred to herein as the “Pastor”). He should be honored in his sacred office, as the spiritual overseer of the church and shall be general supervisor of all of its activities. He shall be the President of the corporation and shall act as Chairman of all the business meetings of the church and of the Board. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and departments. He shall provide for all the services of the church and shall arrange for all special meetings, giving due regard to the church. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the church without his approval. He shall be designated attorney-in-fact for the corporation by virtue of his office.
- B. QUALIFICATIONS : His life shall be above reproach and becoming to a minister of the Gospel (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9; 1 Peter 5:1-3; Ephesians 4:11-13).

### **SECTION TWO - Deacons**

- A. DUTIES : The Deacons shall act in an advisory capacity with the Pastor in all matters pertaining to the church in its spiritual life and in the ministry of its ordinances. They shall provide counsel and mutual assistance in the administration of church business. They shall examine applicants for church membership, and administer discipline within the church membership.

In the event the church is temporarily without a Pastor, the Deacons shall be empowered to provide for their own Chairman from their membership in order to transact business for the church.

They shall be the custodians of all the property of the church and shall be responsible for the maintenance and cleanliness of the same, and for the comfort of the congregation.

- B. QUALIFICATIONS : The Deacons shall be mature men of at least 21 years of age, a member of the church for at least two years, full of faith and the Holy Spirit, whose lives and conduct shall conform to the following Scriptures: Acts 6:3; 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

### **SECTION THREE - Secretary**

- A. DUTIES : The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the official meetings of the Board, and of the annual, regular and special business meetings of the church. He shall maintain the church membership roster, and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of his duties. He shall be custodian of all legal documents, and be in possession of the corporate seal.
  
- B. QUALIFICATIONS : Same as a Deacon.

### **SECTION FOUR - Treasurer**

- A. DUTIES : The Treasurer shall be entrusted with all the finances of the church. He shall deposit all funds in a responsible bank in the name of the church, and shall disburse the same by check. All checks shall be countersigned by the Pastor or by another member of the Board, as directed by the Board. He shall give an itemized account to the Board and at the annual meeting of the church. His accounts shall be audited under the direction of the Board.
  
- B. QUALIFICATIONS : Same as a Deacon. He shall also have an understanding of finance, general accounting and business procedures.

## **ARTICLE III - Elections and Vacancies**

### **SECTION ONE - The Pastor**

The Pastor shall be called for an indefinite period, unless otherwise stipulated by the Board at the time of election. The Board, acting in the capacity of a pulpit committee, shall select an available, scripturally qualified minister as nominee to the office of Pastor, and shall present his name for the vote of the church. Any member of the church may offer a minister's name for the consideration of the committee. Election shall be by secret ballot, a two-thirds majority vote of all votes cast being required to constitute an election.

### **SECTION TWO - Associate Pastors**

The associate pastors shall be chosen by the Pastor, and shall be ratified by the Board. They shall maintain the same qualifications as stated in Article II, Section One, Sub-section B. They shall serve in those areas of ministry assigned them by the Pastor.

### **SECTION THREE - Deacons**

The Deacons shall be chosen from the membership of the church. They shall be nominated by a nominating committee consisting of the Pastor, the retiring Board Members and two laypersons selected by the Board. Additional names may be submitted to the nominating committee by any member of the church. They shall be elected by a majority vote at the annual business meeting for a term of three years each. Deacons shall not serve for more than two consecutive three year terms. Two deacons will be elected each year.

### **SECTION FOUR - Secretary**

The Secretary shall be appointed by the Board and be presented for ratification by the church membership during the annual business meeting. The Secretary's term shall be for three years, and he shall not serve for more than two consecutive three year terms.

### **SECTION FIVE - Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall be appointed by the Board and be presented for ratification by the church membership during the annual business meeting. The Treasurer's term shall be for three years, and he shall not serve for more than two consecutive three year terms.

### **SECTION SIX - Vacancies**

#### **A. The Pastor :**

If the Pastor has been called for a definite period of time, the tenure of office shall terminate at the end of his term of service. It would then be necessary to vote for his re-election by a two-thirds majority vote. Election shall be by secret ballot.

In the event the Pastor has serious charges preferred against him, or his ministry has ceased to be effective, or no provision has been made for the termination of his ministry, power is vested in the Board to ask for his resignation at any time. If such resignation is refused, the pastorate shall not be considered vacant until the action of the Board has been confirmed through a secret ballot by a majority of members attending a special business meeting called for that purpose with notice having been given on

the two Sundays prior, such meeting to be presided over by an official from the Oregon District.

When a vacancy in the pastorate occurs, a supply of speakers shall be arranged for by the Board until a pastor shall be chosen as prescribed in Article III, Section One.

**B. Associate Pastors :**

An associate pastor serves at the discretion of the Pastor.

**C. Other Officers:**

Any other office may be declared vacant by a majority of members attending any regular or special business meeting.

Grounds for such action shall be: (a) unscriptural conduct, (b) doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith; and/or (c) incompetence in office.

Any incumbent under charges shall have opportunity for a fair and impartial hearing of his case before the church if he so desires.

The Board is empowered to fill by appointment any vacancy until the next annual election of the officers.

## **ARTICLE IV - Departments**

### **SECTION ONE - Public Worship**

Meetings for public worship shall be held on the "Lord's Day", and during the week as may be determined by the board.

### **SECTION TWO - Annual Business Meeting**

There shall be an annual business meeting of the church, at which time reports shall be given, and the election of officers shall take place. This meeting shall be held the first quarter of each year. Due notice thereof shall be given on two Sundays prior.

### **SECTION THREE - Special Business Meeting**

Special business meetings of the church may be called when necessary by the Pastor, or by the majority of the board, after proper notice has been given by the Pastor or by the Secretary of the church on the two Sundays prior.

### **SECTION FOUR - Initiative**

Special business meetings may also be called by petition having been signed by not less than twenty percent of the membership of the church, the petitions to be placed in the hands of the Pastor and the Secretary and an announcement made on the two Sundays prior to the date of the meeting.

### **SECTION FIVE - Quorum**

- A. Those members present at any properly called special or regular business meeting of the church shall constitute a quorum.
- B. A majority of the members of any board or committee shall constitute a quorum.

### **SECTION SIX - Board Meetings**

The Board shall meet monthly, or as the need may require.

## **ARTICLE V - Finances**

### **SECTION ONE - Finance**

The Board shall have general oversight in all financial matters pertaining to the church. All records shall be at all times subject to audit.

### **SECTION TWO - Financial Support**

All pastors and all church employees shall be given regular and adequate financial support, the amount and manner of which shall be determined by agreement between the Pastor and the Board.

### **SECTION THREE - District and General Council Support**

This church shall support, according to its ability, the programs and departments of the Oregon District and of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

### **SECTION FOUR - Acceptance of Gifts**

The Board shall be authorized to accept gifts of any nature, including stocks, bonds, trust, bequests, and to transfer them to cash assets, when deemed advisable for the benefit of the corporate body.

## **ARTICLE VI - Property**

### **SECTION ONE – Ownership [Responsibility]**

All property, real or chattel, of the church shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, assigned, or conveyed by the church under the name of Portland Christian Center.

### **SECTION TWO – Real Property [Authorization]**

No real property of the church shall be purchased, sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated unless the same shall have first been authorized by a vote of at least two-thirds majority of the votes cast in a regular or special business meeting of the church. The Pastor and Secretary of the church shall certify in such conveyance, lease, or mortgage that the same has been duly authorized by the church. Notice of the meeting shall be given on the two Sundays prior.

### **SECTION THREE - The Deed**

The deed shall read, "To Portland Christian Center."]

### **SECTION FOUR - Chattel Property**

Chattel property of the church shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise assigned or transferred by the proper officers of the church when duly authorized by the Board.

## **SECTION FIVE – Dissolution [Disillusionment]**

In the event that the church herein mentioned ceases to function as a church body, then the said property, real or chattel, shall become the property of the Assemblies of God, Oregon District, an Oregon corporation. The latter shall have full authority to use or dispose of the property at its discretion in the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ.

## **ARTICLE VII - Business Procedure**

### **SECTION ONE - Parliamentary Procedure**

In order to facilitate the conduct of business in an orderly and satisfactory manner, business meetings shall be governed by recognized rules of parliamentary procedure. All business should be conducted in the spirit of Christ and in brotherly counsel.

### **SECTION TWO - Order of Business**

The suggested order of business for the annual meetings of the church shall be as follows:

- A. Devotional
- B. Reading of the Minutes
- C. Report of the Secretary
- D. Report of the Treasurer
- E. Reports of the Committees
- F. Unfinished Business
- G. Election of Officers
- H. New Business
- I. Adjournment

## **ARTICLE VIII - Amendments**

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made at any regular or special business meeting of the church by a two-thirds majority vote of the membership thereof present, provided

the meeting has been properly announced on the two Sundays prior, and that the proposed amendment has been posted on the church bulletin board over the same period.

## Statement of Fundamental Truths

of the General Council of the Assemblies of God

This church accepts the Holy Scriptures as the revealed will of God, the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice, and for the purpose of maintaining general unity, adopts the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, to wit:

1. **The Scriptures Inspired** - The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:2).
2. **The One True God** - The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM", the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10, 11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).
3. **The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ** - the Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare:
  - A. His virgin birth - (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31,35);
  - B. His sinless life - (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22);
  - C. His miracles - (Acts 2:22; 10:38);
  - D. His substitutionary work on the cross - (1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21);
  - E. His bodily resurrection from the dead - (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:4);
  - F. His exaltations to the right hand of God - (Acts 1:9, 11; 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1-3).
4. **The Fall of Man** - Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary

transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God (Genesis 1:26, 27; 2:17; 3:6; Romans 5:12-19).

5. **The Salvation of Man** - Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

A. **Conditions to Salvation** - Salvation is received through repentance toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).

B. **Holy Communion** - The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements -- bread and the fruit of the vine -- is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (1 Corinthians 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers 'til He comes!

6. **The Baptism in the Holy Spirit** - All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Spirit comes such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:38), and intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His Word and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

7. **The Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit** - The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking of tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:4-10, 28), but difference in purpose and use.

8. **Sanctification** - Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 4:23; Hebrews 13:12). The Scriptures teach a life of “holiness without which no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14). By the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to obey the command: “Be ye holy, for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:15,16).
9. **The Church and Its Mission** - The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the General Assembly and Church of the Firstborn, which are written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22, 23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23).

Since God’s purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshipped by man, and to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, the priority reason-for-being of the Assemblies of God as part of the Church is:

- A. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world.  
(Acts 1:3; Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15, 16).
- B. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God.  
(1 Corinthians 12:13)
- C. To be a channel of God’s purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son.  
(Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 14:12).

The Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason-for-being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. This experience:

- A. Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs.  
(Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Hebrews 2:3,4)
- B. Adds a necessary dimension to a worshipful relationship with God.  
(1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 12, 13, 14)

- C. Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ.  
(Galatians 5:22-26; 1 Corinthians 14:14; Ephesians 4:11, 12; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29)

10. **The Ministry** - A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the three-fold purpose of leading the Church in:

- A. Evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20)
- B. Worship of God (John 4:23,24)
- C. Building of body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son  
(Ephesians 4:11-16)
- D. Meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion” (Psalm 112:9, Galatians 2:10 and 6:10 and James 1:27)

11. **Divine Healing** - Divine healing is an integral part of the Gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement, and is the privilege of all believers (Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16-17; James 5:14-16).

12. **The Blessed Hope** - The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the church. (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52)

13. **The Millennial Reign of Christ** - The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27, 30; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6). This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel (Ezekiel 37:21, 22; Zephaniah 3:19, 20; Romans 11:26, 27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalm 72:3-8; Micah 4:2, 4).

14. **The Final Judgment** - There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life; together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet; will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; 20:11; 21:8).

15. **The New Heavens and the New Earth** - “We according to His promise look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.” (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21, 22).