



First Reading Articles of Faith Legislation Passed at the 143rd BFC Conference

During the 143rd BFC Conference, the Study Committee on Articles 24-27 proposed amendments to Article 7, Article 24, Article 25, and Article 28. The proposed amendments passed at First Reading. Since these are amendments to the Articles of Faith, the next step is “the Board of Elders of each church shall vote on the proposed change” (Article 701-3).

1. Your task as an elder board is to discuss each amendment that passed at First Reading and vote on each amendment. **Each amendment is a separate vote.**
2. Once your elder board has decided on a vote, use the voting form on BFC.org/Millennium to cast your vote. You may cast your vote for all of the amendments at the same time or vote for them one at a time. All votes from the form are received by Conference Secretary Ron Kohl. You can also email your votes to Ron Kohl at sportspastor33@gmail.com.
3. Before BFC Conference can consider a Second Reading of the proposed amendments, approval of the proposed changes must be reported within 24 months (Article 701-4). Preferably, if all the elder boards vote by February 15, 2027, the Second Reading can be considered at the 144th BFC Conference.
4. If you have further questions on the voting procedure, refer to Article 700 of the Principles of Order or contact Conference Moderator Randy Grossman at RandallAGrossman@gmail.com. If you have questions on the content of the amendments, contact Study Committee Convener Pastor Andy Crossgrove at acrossgrove@faithbfc.org.

Vote #1: Article 7 - Satan

Current

7-1 Satan is a created angelic being who fell from his first estate.¹ He is the god of this age, ruling by the permissive will of God.² He exercises authority over the unsaved, tempts the believer to sin, and continually accuses the brethren before the throne of God.³

7-2 He has been defeated by the finished work of Christ on Calvary. During the millennium he will be confined to the abyss,⁴ to be released at the end of that period to lead the armies of evil against God. He will be finally judged and doomed to the lake of fire.⁵

Change

7-1 Satan is a created angelic being who fell from his first estate.¹ He is the god of this age, ruling by the permissive will of God.² He exercises authority over the unsaved, tempts the believer to sin, roams around like a roaring lion, and continually attacks the brethren. ~~and continually accuses the brethren before the throne of God.~~³

7-2 He has been defeated by the finished work of Christ on Calvary. During the millennium he will be confined to the abyss,⁴ to be released at the end of that period to lead the armies of evil against God. He will be finally judged and doomed to the lake of fire.⁵

Footnotes 1-2 and 4-5 remain the same. One addition for footnote 3.

³ For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain (1Thess 3:5). For the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down (Rev 12:10b). Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.(1 Pet 5:8)

Vote #2: Article 24 - Resurrection

Current

24-1 The bodily resurrection of Christ is the basis for the resurrection of man.¹ At the return of the Lord the bodies of the righteous dead will be raised, and the living believers will be caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air.² Believers will, at the resurrection, receive spiritual and immortal bodies like Christ's own glorious body.³

24-2 The event of the resurrection is divided into two stages, separated by a period of a thousand years and differing in respect to both their subjects and their issues.⁴ The first resurrection includes only the righteous dead.⁵ The second resurrection is universal and occurs at the close of the millennium when all the unregenerate dead are raised to be brought before the great White Throne for judgment.⁶

Change

24-1 The bodily resurrection of Christ is the basis for the resurrection of His people of man.¹ At the return of the Lord the bodies of the righteous dead will be raised, and the living believers will be caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air.² Believers will, at the resurrection, receive spiritual and immortal bodies like Christ's own glorious body.³

24-2 The event of the resurrection is divided into two stages.⁴ ~~separated by a period of a thousand years and differing in respect to both their subjects and their issues.~~⁴ The first resurrection includes only the righteous dead.⁵ The second resurrection is universal and occurs at the close of the millennium when all the unregenerate dead are raised to be brought before the great White Throne for judgment.⁶

No changes to the footnotes.

Vote #3: Article 25 - The Second Coming of Christ

Current

25-1 The Second Coming of Jesus Christ is the personal, visible, bodily return of our Lord to this earth¹ to conform believers to His image and to establish the millennial kingdom. In connection with Christ's return there will be the resurrection of the righteous dead,² the rapture of the saints,³ the salvation of Israel,⁴ the great tribulation,⁵ and the inauguration of the millennial reign.⁶ Following the millennium will be the resurrection and judgment of the unrighteous. The righteous will be eternally glorified with Him; the unrighteous will be eternally punished.

25-2 The Second Coming is the believer's source of encouragement and comfort inspiring him to active service for Christ, and is a motive for purification and holy living.⁷

¹ In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also (John 14:2,3). "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is (1Jo. 3:2). Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet

Change

25-1 The Second Coming of Jesus Christ is the personal, visible, bodily return of our Lord to this earth¹ to conform believers to His image² and visibly manifest the ~~to establish the millennial kingdom.~~³ In connection with Christ's return there will be the resurrection of the righteous dead,^{2,4} the rapture of the saints,^{3,5} the salvation of Israel,^{4,6} the great tribulation,^{5,7} ~~and the inauguration of the millennial reign.~~⁶ Following the millennium will be the ~~resurrection~~ and judgment of the unrighteous.⁸ The righteous will be eternally glorified with Him; the unrighteous will be eternally punished.²

25-2 The Second Coming is the believer's source of encouragement and comfort inspiring him to active service for Christ, and is a motive for purification and holy living.^{7,10}

Footnote 1 remains the same.

Footnotes 2-3 are new additions.

The current Footnote 2 becomes new 4 and adds 1 Thes 4:16.

The current Footnote 3 becomes new 5 and adds Matt 24:31.

The current Footnote 4 becomes new 6 with no changes.

The current Footnote 5 becomes new 7 with no changes.

The current Footnote 6 is dropped.

A new Footnote 8 is added with 2 Thess 1:7-9.

Vote #3 Continued: Article 25 - The Second Coming of Christ

will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed (1Cor. 15:51,52).

³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words (1Thes. 4:13-18).

⁴ A partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved (Rom. 11:25b, 26a).

⁵ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be (Mat. 24:21).

⁶ Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years (Rev. 20:6).

⁷ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure (1Jo. 3:3).

A new Footnote 9 is added with Matt 25:46.

The current Footnote 7 becomes new 10 and adds Col 3:4-10.

¹ In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also (John 14:2,3). "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

² But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. (Phil 3:21).

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. (1 Jn 3:2).

³ When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. (Matt 25:31). And the Lord will be king over all the earth. On that day the Lord will be one and his name one. (Zech 14:9). (see also Isa 2:4,11:4).

²⁴ Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is (1 Jn 3:2). Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed (1Cor 15:51-52). For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. (1 Thess 4:16).

³⁵ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words (1Thess 4:13-18). And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (Matt 24:31).

⁴⁶ A partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved (Rom 11:25b, 26a).

⁵⁷ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be (Matt 24:21).

~~⁶ Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years (Rev. 20:6).~~

⁸ ...and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels ⁸in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ²They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might (2 Thess 1:7-9).

⁹ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life. (Mat. 25:46).

Vote #3 Continued: Article 25 - The Second Coming of Christ

^{7,10} And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure (1 John 3:3). When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. (Col 3:4-10).

Vote #4: Article 28 - The Eternal State

Current

28-1 There are two final, eternal destinies for man: heaven for the righteous and penitent, and hell for the unrighteous and impenitent.¹ At the great white throne judgment, all of the enemies of God will be consigned to the place of eternal conscious punishment, from which there is no escape.² The new heavens and the new earth shall be created³ as the final state in which the righteous shall dwell forever in the presence of God.⁴

Change

28-1 There are two final, eternal destinies for man.¹: ~~heaven for the righteous and penitent, and hell for the unrighteous and impenitent.~~ At the great white throne judgment, all of the unrighteous and impenitent, the enemies of God, will be consigned to the lake of fire, a place of eternal conscious punishment, from which there is no escape.² The new heavens and the new earth shall be created³ as the final state in which the penitent righteous shall dwell forever in the presence of God.⁴

No changes to the footnotes.

How to Vote:

- Use the Voting Form on BFC.org/Millennium or email your vote to Conference Secretary Ron Kohl at sportspastor33@gmail.com.
- You may vote for all amendments at the same time or turn in your votes one at a time.

Questions?

- For questions on the voting procedures, refer to Article 700 Amendments to the Faith & Order or contact Conference Moderator Randy Grossman at RandallAGrossman@gmail.com.
- For questions on the Millennium and the Study Committee's findings and the content of the proposed amendments, contact Study Committee Convener Pastor Andy Crossgrove at acrossgrove@faithbfc.org.