

# A Personal Introduction

*Bobby Joseph*

These studies were born out of years of wrestling with Scripture through seasons of suffering, restoration, and discovery.

I am not writing from a study tower. I am writing from a pew, from a Houston mission where I have preached month after month for more than two decades, from a classroom where I have sat and learned alongside other believers who simply wanted to know God better. My conviction is that the riches of Scripture belong to every believer, not only to those with degrees on the wall.

That conviction is the heart of this work. The name says it plainly. What we have received freely, we give freely. There is no paywall here and no charge for what God never meant to be sold. These studies exist because I believe the Word of God is deep enough for a lifetime and clear enough for anyone willing to come and read.

I write for the believer who hungers for depth but has been told that depth is for someone else. It is not. The same Scripture that has carried me through my own seasons of darkness and grace is here for you, unhurried, taking the long road through the text because the road itself is the teaching.

My prayer is simple. I want to serve the Church. I want to put solid food on the table for ordinary saints and let the Spirit do what only the Spirit can do. If anything here draws you closer to Christ, then it has done its

work, and the glory is His alone. Whatever is of value in these pages belongs to God. Whatever is mistaken is mine.

*These pages are not mine to keep. They are yours to use. Freely you have received. Freely give.*

# What I Believe

*In essentials, unity. In non-essentials,  
liberty. In all things, charity.*

— *Rupertus Meldenius, 1627 (often attributed to  
Augustine of Hippo)*

*A short confession for a long faith.*

## Scripture

The Bible is the Word of God, breathed out by him and without error in what it teaches. Sixty-six books, two testaments, one story. It is sufficient for salvation, authoritative for life, and clear enough that a child can be saved by it and deep enough that a scholar will never exhaust it.

## God

There is one God, eternal, holy, sovereign, and good. He exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. One in essence, three in person, undivided in glory.

## The Father

The Father created all things by his word and for his pleasure. He is not distant. He is not detached. He is the God who walks in the garden, who hears the cry of slaves, who calls Israel his son, and whom Jesus taught us to call Abba.

## The Son

Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, crucified under Pontius Pilate, buried, and raised on the third day. He is the second Adam. He is the true Israel. He is the Exile-Bearer, the Son who went into the far country to bring the children of Adam home.

## The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is God himself, not a force and not a feeling. He convicts the world of sin, regenerates the dead, indwells the believer, and seals us until the day of redemption. The Spirit applies what the Son accomplished.

## Humanity

Men and women are made in the image of God, equal in worth and dignity. We are also fallen. Every part of us is touched by sin, and we cannot save ourselves. Not by our striving. Not by our religion. Not by our good intentions.

## Salvation

Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, to the glory of God alone. God is sovereign in salvation, and the sinner is responsible to respond. I hold this tension rather than resolve it. The Bible holds both with no apology, and so do I.

This is why the site is called withoutcost. Not because the gospel is cheap, but because it was paid for in full by Another, and offered freely to all who will come.

## The Church

The Church is the bride of Christ and the body of Christ, gathered from every tribe and tongue. She is local and universal, visible and invisible, militant and triumphant. She is the household where Word and sacrament, prayer and fellowship, mercy and mission carry the gospel into the world.

## Last Things

Christ will return bodily and visibly to judge the living and the dead. The dead in Christ will rise. The kingdom will be consummated. The exile will be over. The garden will become a city, and God will dwell with his people forever.

## Anchor

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). On this rock I stand. Everything else I hold with an open hand.