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# KNOW THE TRUTH

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## THE DOCTRINE OF SCRIPTURE

Lecture 1..... 8:15 am – 9:00 am

Lecture 2 ..... 9:05 am – 9:50 am

Brunch .....9:50 am – 10:30 am

Lecture 3 .....10:30 am – 11: 15 am

Q & A .....11:20 am – 12:05 pm

Throughout the morning, please feel free to get up for another cup of coffee or to stretch your legs.

Submit questions anytime for the last session, which is a Q & A, by texting 601.664.8307.

We'll hope you'll save the date for the other Saturday Seminars this year:

**March 26<sup>th</sup> – August 20<sup>th</sup> – October 15<sup>th</sup>**



## Lecture 1: General Revelation

Why do theology?  
What are the sources of theology?  
What is the nature of general revelation?  
What are its uses?

A. The use of the Mind

B. Our starting point as the study of the doctrine of Holy Scripture

C. Models of Revelation/Tradition: Sola Scriptura

1. Tradition 1 (Single Source)

2. Tradition 2 (Dual Source)

3. Tradition “0” (Single Source)

D. Revelation as a theological category

## E. General Revelation

### 1. Its Nature

Key texts: Romans 1:18f; Psalm 19:1-6; case study: Acts 14:8-18

### 2. Its Content

WCF: "... manifest the goodness, wisdom, and power of God"

### 3. Its Effect

### 4. Its Extent

### 5. Its Limits

### 6. Its Uses

- A Missiological Use:

- A Doxological Use:

Lecture 2: Special Revelation

Inscription  
Canon  
Inspiration  
Attributes of Scripture

A. Special Revelation

1. Covenantal
2. Progressive
3. Cumulative
4. Two Modes of Special Revelation
  - a. *Immediate Revelation*
  - b. *Mediate Revelation*

B. Inscription and Its Necessity

WCF “and afterwards, for the better preserving and propagating of the truth, and for the more sure establishment and comfort of the church against the corruption of the flesh, and the malice of Satan and of the world, to commit the same wholly unto writing.”

## C. The Question of Canon: Which Books and Why?

### 1. Definitions:

- *Canon*
  
- *Apocrypha*
  
- *Pseudepigrapha*

### 2. The Old Testament Canon

- *The Historical Evidence:*

### 3. The New Testament Canon

- *Historical Evidence:*

### 4. Criteria of Canonicity: How do we know?

- a. Apostolicity
  
- b. Antiquity
  
- c. Orthodoxy
  
- d. Catholicity
  
- e. Lection
  
- f. Inspiration

5. Roman Catholicism's claims

D. Reformed Conception of Canonicity:

1. The Superintendence of the Holy Spirit

E. The Organic Inspiration of Scripture

*Key Texts:* 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:16-21

## Lecture 3: The Attributes of Scripture

### The Spirit and the Word Implications

#### A. The Attributes of Scripture

##### 1. Authority

- a. The source of authority is not external to Scripture
- b. The source of Scriptural authority is God speaking in Scripture
- c. The internal evidences of Scripture as the Word of God

(i) Content:

(ii) Form:

(iii) Coherence:

(iv) Veracity:

*WCF 1.5: "yet notwithstanding, our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth and divine authority thereof, is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts."*

#### d. Implications of Authority:

(i) Analogia fide

(ii) No radical autonomy

2. Clarity
  - a. What it doesn't mean
  - b. What it does mean
  - c. Implications:
    - (i) Encouragement to persevere in study
    - (ii) Expectation of blessing
    - (iii) Necessity of translation
3. Inerrancy
  - a. What it does not mean
  - b. What it does mean
4. Sufficiency and Finality
  - a. Sufficient for what?
  - b. What is sufficient?
  - c. Implications
    - (i) New revelations?
    - (ii) Faith rests on the promises
    - (iii) Theological Modesty



B. The Spirit and the Word

1. Attestation

2. Illumination

3. Regeneration

4. Sanctification

C. Implications of Scripture's Attributes and the Spirit's Work with the Word

1. Exegetical method

2. The Possibility of Systematic Theology

3. Personal Reverence

4. The regulative principle

5. Evangelism preaches the word

## Westminster Confession of Faith

### Chapter I - Of the Holy Scripture

1. Although the light of nature, and the works of creation and providence do so far manifest the goodness, wisdom, and power of God, as to leave men inexcusable; yet they are not sufficient to give that knowledge of God, and of his will, which is necessary unto salvation. Therefore it pleased the Lord, at sundry times, and in divers manner, to reveal Himself, and to declare that His will unto His Church; and afterwards, for the better preserving and propagating of the truth, and for the more sure establishment and comfort of the Church against the corruption of the flesh, and the malice of Satan and of the world, to commit the same wholly unto writing: which maketh the Holy Scripture to be most necessary; those former ways of God's revealing His will unto His people being now ceased.
2. Under the name of Holy Scripture, or the Word of God written, are now contained all the books of the Old and New Testaments, which are these,

#### *Of the Old Testament*

*Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi*

#### *The New Testament*

*Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, Philemon, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude, Revelation*

All which are given by inspiration of God to be the rule of faith and life.

3. The books commonly called Apocrypha, not being of divine inspiration, are no part of the canon of the Scripture, and therefore are of no authority in the Church of God, nor to be any otherwise approved, or made use of, than other human writings.
4. The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed, and obeyed, dependeth not upon the testimony of any man, or Church; but wholly upon God (who is truth itself) the author thereof: and therefore it is to be received, because it is the Word of God.
5. We may be moved and induced by the testimony of the Church to an high and reverend esteem of the Holy Scripture. And the heavenliness of the matter, the efficacy of the doctrine, the majesty of the style, the consent of all the parts, the scope of the whole (which is, to give all glory to God), the full discovery it makes of the only way of man's salvation, the many other incomparable excellencies, and the entire perfection thereof, are arguments whereby it doth abundantly evidence itself to be the Word of God: yet notwithstanding, our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth and divine authority thereof, is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts.
6. The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit or traditions of men. Nevertheless, we acknowledge the inward illumination of the Spirit of God to be necessary for the saving understanding of such things as are revealed in the Word: and that there are some circumstances concerning the worship of God, and government of the Church, common to human actions and societies, which are to be ordered by the light of nature, and Christian prudence, according to the general rules of the Word, which are always to be observed.

7. All things in Scripture are not alike plain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all: yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed, and observed for salvation, are so clearly propounded, and opened in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the learned, but the unlearned, in a due use of the ordinary means, may attain unto a sufficient understanding of them.
  
8. The Old Testament in Hebrew (which was the native language of the people of God of old), and the New Testament in Greek (which, at the time of the writing of it, was most generally known to the nations), being immediately inspired by God, and, by His singular care and providence, kept pure in all ages, are therefore authentical; so as, in all controversies of religion, the Church is finally to appeal unto them. But, because these original tongues are not known to all the people of God, who have right unto, and interest in the Scriptures, and are commanded, in the fear of God, to read and search them, therefore they are to be translated into the vulgar language of every nation unto which they come, (that, the Word of God dwelling plentifully in all, they may worship Him in an acceptable manner; and, through patience and comfort of the Scriptures, may have hope.
  
9. The infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is the Scripture itself: and therefore, when there is a question about the true and full sense of any Scripture (which is not manifold, but one), it must be searched and known by other places that speak more clearly.
  
10. The supreme judge by which all controversies of religion are to be determined, and all decrees of councils, opinions of ancient writers, doctrines of men, and private spirits, are to be examined, and in whose sentence we are to rest, can be no other but the Holy Spirit speaking in the Scripture.

