

# THE DOCTRINE OF SCRIPTURE



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# LAMP

## TO OUR FEET

KNOWING & LOVING  
THE WORD OF GOD

2023-2024 CHURCHWIDE TEACHING THEME

DAVID STRAIN & J. LIGON DUNCAN

- 1. The Necessity of Scripture-** General and Special revelation, Why we need the Bible.
- 2. The Content of Scripture-** Canon, Preservation, Transmission and Translation.
- 3. The Authority of Scripture-** Grounds of authority, Evidences of Authority, The Ministry of the Spirit, the Role of the Bible in Controversy
- 4. The Sufficiency of Scripture-** Defined and Qualified
- 5. The Clarity of Scripture-** What clarity isn't, What clarity is
- 6. The Interpretation of Scripture-** How to interpret the Bible for oneself: the infallible rule, not manifold meanings

WCF 1.1 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; (Rom. 2:14–15, Rom. 1:19–20, Ps. 19:1–3, Rom. 1:32, Rom. 2:1) yet they are not sufficient to give that knowledge of God, and of his will, which is necessary unto salvation. (1 Cor. 1:21, 1 Cor. 2:13–14)

Therefore it pleased the Lord, at sundry times, and in divers manner, to reveal Himself, and to declare that His will unto His Church; (Heb. 1:1) 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: (Prov. 22:19–21, Luke 1:3–4, Rom. 15:4, Matt. 4:4,7,10, Isa. 8:19–20) which maketh the Holy Scripture to be most necessary; (2 Tim. 3:15, 2 Pet. 1:19) those former ways of God's revealing His will unto His people being now ceased. (Heb. 1:1–2)

**WLC 2 “How doth it appear that there is a God?”**

**“The very light of nature in man, and the works of God, declare plainly that there is a God; but his Word and Spirit only do sufficiently and effectually reveal him unto men for their salvation.”**

*God exists and created all things*

*Atheism is folly*

*God has a unique nature as God*

*Idolatry is wicked*

*God holds man accountable to his moral law*

*Sinners are under God's wrath and without excuse*

**WCF 1.1: “... do so far manifest the goodness, wisdom and power of God as to leave men unexcusable.”**

**Romans 1:20: “For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.”**

**WCF 7:1 “Of God’s Covenant with Man”**

**“The distance between God and the creature is so great, that although reasonable creatures do owe obedience unto him as their Creator, yet they could never have any fruition of him as their blessedness and reward, but y some voluntary condescension on God’s part, which he hath been pleased to express by way of covenant.”**

**“Precisely as Christians, by faith, they see the revelation of God in nature much better and more clearly than before. The carnal person does not understand God’s speech in nature and history. He or she searches the entire universe without finding God. But Christians, equipped with the spectacles of scripture, see God in everything and everything in God. For that reason we find in scripture a kind of nature poetry and view of history such as is found nowhere else. With their Christian confession, accordingly, Christians find themselves at home also in the world.” (H. Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics, Vol. 1, Prolegomena*, 321)**

**WCF 1.1: “Therefore it pleased the Lord, at sundry times, and in divers manners, to reveal himself, and to declare that his will unto his church.”**

**WCF 1.1: “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.”**

**WCF 1.1 “...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 which maketh the Holy Scripture to be most necessary; those former ways of God’s revealing his will unto his people being now ceased.”**

**The Westminster Confession's 4 reasons for inscripturation:**

1. *“... for preserving and propagating of the truth”*
2. *“Establishment and comfort of the church against the corruption of the flesh”*
3. *“Establishment and comfort of the church... against the malice of Satan and of the world”*
4. *“those former ways of God's revealing his will unto his people being now cceased.”*