

Of the Holy Scriptures (Part 1) – Psalm 12:6-7

Baptist Confession of Faith (1689) Chapter 1, Paragraphs 1-5

Doctrine: Sola Scriptura

‘The Holy Scripture is the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience.’ (Par. 1)

- God’s Word is the final and ultimate, authoritative **RULE** of faith (2 Timothy 3:16).
- God has also revealed Himself through general revelation, yet it is not sufficient for a **SAVING** knowledge of God and His will (Rom. 1:19-23, 2:15).
- The revelation of Scripture is **PROGRESSIVE**, culminating in the person and work of the Lord Christ Jesus (Heb. 1:1-2).
- God has and will continue to **PRESERVE** His inerrant Word of truth (Ps. 12:6-7, Is. 40:8, Mt. 24:35).
- Scripture is **NECESSARY** for God’s people to believe and worship in a way that is pleasing to Him because divine revelation has ceased (Prov. 22:19-21; Rom. 15:4; Rev. 22:18-19).

‘No one can get even the slightest taste of right and sound doctrine unless he be a pupil of Scripture.’ – John Calvin

Only Scripture is Scripture (Par. 2, 3)

- Every **WORD** of all the books of the Bible are inspired and authoritative (Mt. 5:18, 2 Tim. 3:16).
- **ONLY** Scripture is directly inspired by God and authoritative over the church (Luke 24:44, Rom. 3:2).

‘Value all books in proportion as they are agreeable with Scripture’ – J. C. Ryle

Scripture is Self-Authenticating (Par. 4, 5)

- The Bible is God’s **SELF**-Revelation (Jer. 1:9, Is. 51:16)
- The Bible is the Word of **GOD**, not the words of **MEN** (Mt. 22:43, 1 Thes. 2:13, 2 Pet. 1:19-21)
- Therefore, Scripture is Self-Authenticating, since **God** is Self-Authenticating (1 Jn. 5:9).
- The authority of Scripture is rooted in the authority of **GOD**.
‘Whatever the [sacred writers] said, the Spirit is declared to have said’ – Charles Hodge

Application:

- 1) **CONFESSION**: We must agree with this doctrine (1 Tim. 6:3-5, Titus 1:9)
- 2) **STUDY** the Word of God (Ps. 119:9-11)
- 3) **DELIGHT** in the Word of God (Ps. 1:2, 119:97)