

Of the Holy Scriptures (Part 2) – 2 Timothy 3:15-17

Baptist Confession of Faith (1689) Chapter 1, Paragraphs 6-10

Doctrine: Sola Scriptura

The Sufficiency of Scripture (Paragraph 6)

- Everything necessary for salvation, doctrine, and faithful worship is found in **SCRIPTURE** (2 Tim. 3:15-17).
- Even in areas of Christian liberty (such as the forms, though not content, of private and corporate worship; structure of societies), the general **PRINCIPLES** and directions of Scripture are to be observed in conjunction with Christian prudence – according to Scripture (1 Corinthians 14:40).
- The sufficiency of Scripture is a doctrine of joyous **LIBERTY**, not legalistic tyranny.

The Perspicuity of Scripture (Paragraph 7)

- There are elements of doctrine and passages of Scripture which are **DIFFICULT** to understand (2 Pt. 3:16).
- Scripture is **CLEAR** on all things necessary for true faith and worship, which all, by the work of the Spirit through the ordinary means of grace, may learn. (Ps. 119:130).

The Reliability of Scripture (Paragraph 8)

- The original and inspired writings of the Old Testament was in **HEBREW**, and the New Testament in **GREEK**.
- God has, ‘by His singular care and providence kept **PURE** in all ages,’ and has preserved His Word (Ps. 12:6-7).

- The Scriptures ought to be **FAITHFULLY** translated into all languages, so that ‘they may worship Him in an acceptable manner, and through patience and comfort of the Scriptures may have hope’ (1 Cor. 14:6, 11-12).

The Interpretation of Scripture (Paragraph 9)

- ‘The infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is the **SCRIPTURE** itself’ (Acts 15:15).
- God’s Word is **SELF**-Interpreting.
- Utilize **CROSS-REFERENCES**; and whenever something is quoted, go back to the original quotation, so that you may learn to rightly interpret that passage, even as you are studying another passage.

The Final Authority of Scripture (Paragraph 10)

- All documents, teachings, and practices are subject to the **AUTHORITY** of Scripture (Isaiah 8:20).
- ‘The supreme judge... can be no other but the Holy Scripture delivered by the Spirit, into which Scripture so delivered, our faith is finally **RESOLVED**’ (Mt. 22:29, Eph. 2:20).

Application:

- 1) **STUDY**: Study the Scriptures, that you may grow in your understanding, love, and worship of God.
- 2) **FAITH**: Approach the Scriptures with a heart of trust, not doubt, and be willing to wrestle in your understanding of a particular text.
- 3) **SUBMISSION**: Submit yourselves to the authority of God, as revealed in His holy Word.