

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Scripture

ARTICLE 1

I. The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.

REVELATION

- Revelation is God's manifestation of himself to humanity.

It is the supernatural self-disclosure of God to humanity through some form of communication.

- There are two broad types of revelation: General Revelation and Special Revelation.

REVELATION

- Psalm 19:1 - The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.
- Romans 1:20 - For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

REVELATION

- The most complete and full revelation of God is the incarnation of Jesus Christ. We know God most fully from who Jesus Christ is, from what he said, and from what he did.
- The Bible is God's revelation of himself in Christ that he has preserved for us.

INSPIRATION

- Inspiration is the work of the Holy Spirit in enabling the human authors of the Bible to record what God desired to have written in the Scriptures.

INSPIRATION

- 2 Timothy 3:16 - All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;
- 2 Peter 1:20-21 - But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

INSPIRATION

- Inspiration is plenary: all of the Scriptures are completely inspired (Matt 5:18; Ps 119:89, 160)
- Inspiration is verbal: the very words of the original autographs were inspired (Matt 22:32; John 10:35; Gal 3:16).
- Inspiration happened through a wide variety of processes

INSPIRATION

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
- 1 John 5:13 - These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

AUTHORITY

- By authority we mean that the Bible, as the expression of God's will to us, possesses the right supremely to define what we are to believe and how we are to conduct ourselves today.
- The Holy Spirit works in the Christian person and community in assisting believers to interpret, understand, and obey the Scriptures.

INFALLIBLE

- That the Bible is infallible means that it always accomplishes God's purposes for it.
- Isaiah 55:11 - So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

INERRANCY

- Inerrancy means that Scripture in its original manuscripts was free from error, and does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact. The Bible is fully truthful in all of its teachings.
- All of the words in the Bible are God's words, God cannot lie, therefore all the words of Scripture are true.
- Jesus regarded the Bible as inspired, authoritative, and inerrant (Matthew 24:35; John 17:17; Luke 24:25).

SUFFICIENCY

- The sufficiency of Scripture means that Scripture contains all the words of God he intends for his people to have at each stage of redemptive history, and that it now contains all the words of God we need for salvation, for trusting him perfectly, and for obeying him perfectly.
- Deuteronomy 4:2 – “You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.