

THE DOCTRINE OF SCRIPTURE: PART 2

The centerpiece of reformed theology, recovered at the reformation, is not election, predestination, or even justification by faith, rather it is the doctrine of Scripture.

VARIED OPINIONS

The _____ church, of infant baptism they say, *"Where is this enjoined in Scripture? No where. Why do we observe it? Because the primitive Church observed it, and because the Apostles in Scripture appear to have sanctioned it, though this is not altogether certain from Scripture."* With regards to church government they say, *"Let us suppose, for the sake of argument, that Episcopacy is in fact not at all mentioned in Scripture: even then it would be our duty to receive it. Why? because the first Christians received it. If we wish to get at the truth, no matter how we get at it, if we get at it. If it be a fact, that the earliest Christian communities were universally episcopal, it is a reason for our maintaining Episcopacy; and in proportion to our conviction, is it incumbent on us to maintain it."*

The _____ church says, *"Sacred Tradition is part of "the deposit of faith", which also includes Sacred Scripture. It is comprised of the Church's data, given to her by her Lord."*

The _____ church says, *"Holy Tradition is considered to be a source of Christian faith of the same authority and standing as that of the Bible."*

_____ says, *"The essential idea of liberal theology is that all claims to truth, in theology as in other disciplines, must be made on the basis of reason and experience, not by appeal to external authority. Christian scripture may be recognized as spiritually authoritative within Christian experience, but its word does not settle or establish truth claims about matters of fact."*

WCF and **LBCF** state, *"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 Scripture."*

The authority of Scripture stems from the fact that Scripture is _____.

Therefore to disbelieve or disobey what Scripture says is to disbelieve or disobey _____.

THE _____ CLAIMS TO BE _____

Deuteronomy 18:17–22 says, *"And the Lord said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.' And if you say in your heart, 'How may we know the word that the Lord has not*

spoken?'—when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him."

2 Peter 1:21 says, "For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

2 Timothy 3:15–16 says, "From childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness."

_____ Is Considered God's Word

Matthew 19:4–5 says, "He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?'" (Quoting: _____)

Mark 7:9–13 refers to the same passage as "the commandment of God," "Moses said" and "the word of God." In **Acts 1:16**, the words of **Psalm 69 & 109** are said to be the words which "the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David." In **Acts 2:16–17** Peter includes "what was spoken by the prophet Joel" and says "God declares." (See also **Luke 1:70; 24:25; John 5:45–47; Acts 3:18, 21; 4:25; 13:47; 28:25; Rom 1:2; 3:2; 9:17; 1 Cor 9:8–10; Heb 1:1–2, 6–7.**)

_____ Is Considered God's Word

2 Peter 3:15–16 says, "And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures."

1 Timothy 5:17–18 says, "Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. ¹⁸For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages.'" (Quoting: _____ & _____)

WHY SHOULD WE ACCEPT THE BIBLE'S CLAIM?

Arguing from _____?

The Bible is attested in almost _____ manuscripts or fragments, _____ copies in other languages and tens of thousands more in the writings of the church fathers.

What this data demonstrates is that we have an _____ of what was originally written.

Arguing from _____ or _____?

There is one fatal flaw in all this approach.

The measure by which the Bible's authority is determined is found in greater _____.

The **WCF** and **LBCF** states, "*The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed, depends not on the testimony of any man or church, but wholly upon God its Author (Who is Truth itself). Therefore it is to be received because it is the Word of God.*"

Arguing from the _____?

The Bible is self-_____.

We don't defend the Bible by appealing to another _____.

WHY PEOPLE BELIEVE THE BIBLE

1 Corinthians 2:14 says, "*The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*"

John 10:23–28 says, "*Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.'*" ²⁵Jesus answered them, "*I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, ²⁶but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.*"

The **WCF** and **LBCF** states, "*We may be moved and induced by the testimony of the people of God to gain a high and reverent estimation of the Holy Scriptures. We may be similarly affected by the nature of the Scriptures—the heavenliness of the contents, 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 disclosure it makes of the only way of man's salvation, together with many other incomparable excellencies and entire perfections. By all the evidence the Scripture more than proves itself to be the Word of God.*

Yet, notwithstanding this, our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth of Scripture and its divine authority, is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts."

Persuading Others that the Bible is True

In persuading others that the Bible is true, what should we use most? Answer: _____.

Who's view of Scripture do you want to present? Answer: _____.

CONCLUSION

The authority of Scripture means that to _____ or to _____ the Scriptures is to disbelieve or to disobey _____.

RECOMMENDED READING

From introductory, to intermediate, to advanced, these resources will nourish your soul and cause you to praise God for his word.

Kevin DeYoung, *Taking God at His Word*

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine or Systematic Theology*

John Frame, *The Doctrine of the Word of God*