

Foundations of the Faith – Knowing for Living Revelation, Scripture Authority (2)

II. The Attestation of Scripture

*“We may be moved and induced by the testimony of the Church to an high and reverend esteem of the Holy Scripture. And the heavenliness of the matter; 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 discovery it makes of the only way of man’s salvation, the many other incomparable excellencies, and the entire perfection thereof, are arguments whereby it doth abundantly evidence itself to be the Word of God; **yet notwithstanding, our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth and divine authority thereof, is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit bearing witness by and with the Word in our heart.**” -The Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 1, Section 5.*

- A. The testimony of the church
- B. The excellent internal qualities of the Scriptures
- C. The persuading witness of the Holy Spirit
 1. *“I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come, He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said, that He takes of Mine, and will disclose it to you.” (John 16:12-15)*
 2. *“Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. 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. (1 Corinthians 2:12-14)*
 3. *“For God, who said, ‘Let light shine in the darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” (2 Corinthians 4:6)*

III. The Resultant Qualities of the Inspiration of Scripture

- A. Infallible/Authoritative/Inerrant

The authority of the holy scripture, for which it ought to be believed and obeyed, dependent not upon the testimony of any man or church, but wholly upon Go, (who is truth itself,) the author thereof; and therefore it is to be received, because it is the word of God. – Westminster Confession of Faith, I,IV.

B. Sufficient/Final

The whole counsel of God, concerning all things necessary for his own glory, man's salvation, faith, and life, is either expressly set down in scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men. Nevertheless, we acknowledge the inward illumination of the Spirit of God to be necessary for the saving understanding of such things as are revealed in the word.. --Westminster Confession of Faith, I, VI.

C. Clear (Perspicuous)

All things in scripture are not alike plain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all; yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed, and observed, for salvation, are so clearly propounded and opened in some place of scripture or other, that not only the learned, but the unlearned, in a due use of the ordinary means; may attain to a sufficient understanding of them. – Westminster Confession of Faith, I, VII.

REVELATION – GENERAL/NATURAL AND SPECIAL

The heavens declare the glory of God,/ and the sky above proclaims his handiwork./ Day to day pours out speech,/ and night to night reveals knowledge. /There is no speech, nor are there words,/ whose voice is not heard.... /The law of the LORD is perfect,/ reviving the soul;/ the testimony of the Lord is sure,/ making wise the simple;/ the precepts of the Lord are right,/rejoicing the heart;/ the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes... (Psalm 19:1-3; 7-8)

Romans 1:18-23

Romans 2:14

Romans 10:14-17

1. The function of general revelation
2. The limits of general revelation
3. The necessity and function of special revelation

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; yet they are not sufficient to give that knowledge of God, and of his will, which is necessary unto salvation: therefore it pleased the Lord, at sundry times, and in divers manners, to reveal himself, and to declare that his will unto his Church; and afterward, 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; which maketh the holy scripture to be most necessary; those former ways of God's revealing his will unto his people being now ceased. – Westminster Confession of Faith, I,I.