

Inspiration & Authority

- 1) **Pride of Place** → Inspiration & Authority of Scripture == Foundation & Basis of Everything that Follows
 - a) Underscores Desire To Be Biblical Church == Authority of Scripture First Point of Confession
- 2) **(1.2) Inspiration** →
 - a) 2 Pet. 1:21—“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.”
 - b) 2 Tim. 3:16-17—“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”
- 3) **(1.2) Only Rule of Faith & Life**
 - a) Why do you believe what you believe? Content of Your faith. E.g. Hell,
 - b) Why do you do what you do? Your Life. E.g. Homosexuality—Porn
 - c) People give all sorts of answers → Usually Put Selves as the final authority as to what is true & right
 - d) God Made Us In His Image → Ever Since We Have Been Returning the Favor
- 4) **(1.4) Authority of Scripture** → Not Depend On Any Man → Church
 - a) Scripture Has Authority Because of What it is == Word of God → As God’s Word Should Be Received
 - b) Rejection of Church’s Authority to be Sole Interpreter of Scripture == Rejection of Church Tradition
- 5) **(1.10) Supreme Judge** In All Controversies of Religion == God the Holy Spirit Speaking in the Scripture
 - a) All Councils (Including Westminster Assembly)—Ancient Writers (Including Calvin, Luther, etc.)
 - b) All church doctrines → Private Opinions → Judged By Word of God
 - c) This Paragraph is the Final Word—Last Section == on the Doctrine of the Word of God
 - d) Imagine Here == Martin Luther before Church Court → “My conscience is captive to Word of God...”

Special Revelation

- 1) 2 Kinds of Revelation → Natural or General → Special or Scriptural
- 2) **(1.1) General Revelation** →
 - a) Light of Nature → Works of Creation & Providence == Reveal Truth About God
 - b) Reveal God’s Goodness—Wisdom—Power → Leaves Humanity Inexcusable Before Him
 - c) Rom. 1:19-21—“What can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God...”
 - d) Every Human Beings Know God → Suppress the knowledge & Rebel Against His Will
 - e) General Revelation is Inadequate To Bring People To Salvation → Reveal Full Nature of God
- 3) **Special Revelation** == God Speaking In Scripture → Incarnation == Living Word == Now Written
 - a) Long List of Human Conditions that “*Maketh the Scriptures to be Most Necessary*”
 - b) Heb. 1:1-2—“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son”
 - c) Knowledge of God’s Will Must Be Spoken → Specially Given Even to Adam & Eve Before The Fall
 - d) His Will → Our Brokenness → Our Need for Salvation → God’s Provision of Salvation
- 4) **(1.3) Apocrypha** Not Part of Scripture → **Not Special Revelation**
 - a) 12 Books Attached To Scripture → Catholics Include In Canon
 - b) Good Historical Books → not more “*Approved, or made use of, than any other human writings.*”
 - c) Read & Appreciated Like RC Sproul or Current Histories == Not Inspired Scripture
- 5) **(1.5) Evidence & Witness To the Scripture** → List of Internal Evidences
 - a) Full Persuasion & Assurance → Work of Holy Spirit → Word Comes with His Power
 - b) Opens Eyes To Truth of What Is Revealed In Word → Softens Hearts To be Impacted by truth & power

Sufficiency & Perspicuity

- 1) **(1.6) Sufficiency**
 - a) All Things For Revealing & Pursuing of His Glory → Full Revelation of Himself and His Will
 - b) All Things Necessary For Our Salvation—Faith & Life
 - c) 2 Pet. 1:3—“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence”
 - d) Nothing is to be added → No New Revelations of Spirit → Canon Closed → No Traditions of Men
- 2) **(1.6) Illumination** → Inspiration of Writers → Illumination of the Readers
 - a) Inward Illumination of Spirit of God → Opens Our Eyes → Gives Understanding
 - i) 1 Cor. 2:14—“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.”
 - ii) Some Read the Scripture To Attack—Discredit → Has No Power To Convert Apart From Spirit
 - iii) Spirit Must Work in the Heart & Mind to Give Life—Understanding—Faith
- 3) **(1.6) Regulative Principle** → Circumstances Not Spelled Out In Detail → Freedom within General Rules
 - a) Circumstances of Worship—Church Gov’t—Common Human Actions—Societies (Culture)
 - b) Common Sense Application == “Light of Nature—Christian Prudence—General Rules of the Word”
 - c) Presbyterian Form of Government → Elders & Deacons
 - i) Exact Process for Election → How Long should they Serve → How Often Meet?
 - ii) Worship == What Time to Meet → Where → What kind of building?
 - iii) Sing == What Instruments—Songs—Should we Memorize—Hymn Book—Projection
 - iv) Pray—Preach == Topical—Expository—Verse by Verse—Through Books?...
 - v) Sacraments == How Often Serve Communion → Come Up—Sit Down—Loaf—Pieces—Wine?
 - vi) Understand == 90% Our Choice which has changed and evolved from time to time, place to place
- 4) **(1.7) Perspicuity** == “See-Through-Ableness” →
 - i) Not All Scripture == Equally Plain & Clear → Some Things Plain & Clear But Not Simple—Easy
 - ii) Clearest Explanation of Einsteins Theory of Relativity Will Not Be Simple & Easy
 - iii) Though Some Things Are Difficult == Great Majority of Scripture Easily Understandable
 - b) All Necessary for Salvation Is Clearly Understandable
 - c) In Due Use of Ordinary Means == Involves Some Initiative & Work == Read & Study Bible
 - d) All Christians Are Responsible to Study Scripture → Seek Understanding
- 5) **(1.8) Original Manuscripts** are Inspired → God’s Providence & Singular Care Kept Pure
 - a) Innumerable Greek Manuscripts == 99.9% Pure → Dead Sea Scrolls
 - b) Translation → They are to be Translated → Rendered Into Vulgar Tongue → Contra Rome
 - c) Many Earlier Executions Were for Translation == Luther Translated Bible into street German
 - d) King James Only people → what’s with that?
- 6) **(1.8) Interpretation** → Infallible Rule == Let Scripture Interpret Scripture
 - a) Clear Places Shed Light on the Obscure
 - b) New Testament Interprets the Old Testament
 - c) Immediate Context

1. Do all people really know God?
2. Why is General Revelation insufficient to bring people to salvation?
3. On what does the authority of the Bible depend?
4. Why is the perspicuity of Scripture an important doctrine?
5. Where does the Holy Spirit speak today?
6. What other applications should we take from a class like this one?

7.