

The 1689 Confession
Family and Individual Worship/Study Guide

Chapter 1
The Holy Scriptures

Day 1 – The Scriptures are the highest revelation, making other methods of revelation obsolete.

Read 1.1

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1

Questions:

Is the light of nature clear? Is it sufficient for salvation?

Why is the written Word necessary?

Do the prophets still speak today? Why or why not?

Catechism:

Q. Where do you learn how to glorify God?

A. In the Bible alone.

Hymn: “How Firm a Foundation”

Day 2 – The Word of God consists of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Read 1.2-1.3

Scripture: Luke 24:27,44

Questions:

What did Jesus consider to be Scripture?

Can you recite the books of the Bible?

Catechism:

Q. 6. Where do you learn how to glorify God?

A. In the Bible alone.

Hymn: “How Firm a Foundation”

Day 3 – We should believe the Bible because it speaks with the authority of God and is confirmed by the internal witness of the Spirit by and with the Word.

Read 1.4-1.5, 1.9

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:19-21; 1 John 5:9; 1 Corinthians 2:10-12

Questions:

Why should we believe the Bible?

Why should we obey the Bible?

Can we be sure the Bible is true?

Catechism:

Q. Who wrote the Bible?

A. Holy men who were taught by the Holy Spirit.

Hymn: "More About Jesus Would I Know"

Day 4 – The Holy Spirit will enable us to understand the most important teachings of the Bible if we follow good principles of interpretation.

Read 1.6-1.7

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 3:15-16; Acts 15:14-17 (example of comparing Scripture)

Questions:

Can we understand the message of the Bible? How?

What principles should we use to interpret the Bible?

Will all of it be clear to us? What teachings will be the clearest?

Does the Bible tell us everything we need to know for everyday life?

Catechism:

Q. What does the Bible teach us?

A. The Bible teaches us who God is and what he requires of us.

Hymn: "Jesus Loves Me"

Day 5 – God has inspired and preserved His Word, so we should make it available in other languages, study it diligently, and receive it as our final authority.

Read 1.9

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:6-14; Colossians 3:16

Questions:

Why should we translate the Bible? Should we update translations as language changes?

Why should we expect God to preserve the Bible?

Catechism:

Q. What does the Bible teach us?

A. The Bible teaches us who God is and what he requires of us.

Hymn: "Ancient Words"