

First Baptist Church of Clinton, Louisiana  
 1689 Second London Baptist Confession: “Of the Holy Scriptures, Part 3”  
 March 12, 2017

- Clarifications about the Sufficiency of Scripture
  - Perfection doesn’t deny spiritual illumination.
  
  - Perfection doesn’t deny Christian prudence and right reason.
  
- Perspicuity or Clarity (Paragraph 7)
  - Misunderstanding
  - Meaning:
  
  - Arguments for the clarity of Scripture
    1. Sufficiency of Scripture
  
    2. Conviction of Sin from Scripture
  
    3. Specific Biblical Texts on “Clarity”
  
- The Use of Scripture (Paragraphs 8-10): Four principles are taught here.
  - First, the Scriptures in the original languages come down to us without corruption and are therefore authentic. (paragraph 8a)
  
  - Second, the Scriptures are to be translated into the common language of every nation. (paragraph 8b)
  
  - Third, the infallible rule of the interpretation of Scripture is Scripture itself. (paragraph 9)
  
  - Fourth, the Scriptures are the supreme standard of religious truth and the supreme judge of all controversies in religion. (paragraph 10)

- What about “words from God” or “God telling me something in my spirit?”
  
  - Several reasons to conclude that God does not give us revelation or commands outside of the Bible.
    - First, there is no biblical example of God telling a private person through direct special revelation what that person should do in ordinary life situations.
  
    - Second, new words from God are always for His whole people and to explain what God is doing to redeem them, never only for private individuals and their personal lives.
  
    - A third reason we should say that God doesn’t give any more revelations is the doctrine of the sufficiency of Scripture.
      - Scripture: Ps 119:1; Prov 30:5-6
      - Prophets gave new revelations. But there were strict tests about prophets. Deut 13:1-5; 18:15-22.
      - Reasons we know that no new prophets or apostles will come.
        - Christ is now our final mediator (1 Tim 2:5).
  
        - In these last days, God has spoken to us in His Son (Heb 1:1-2). God speaks directly in Christ and through the apostles and NT prophets (Jn 14:26; 16:13-15).
  
        - The apostles and the prophets were the foundation of the church (Eph 2:20).
          - The foundation does not need to be laid again (1 Cor 3:11).
          - Paul tells us he was the last apostle (1 Cor 15:8).
          - To be an apostle, you had to be personally appointed by Christ and able to work miracles (Matt 10:1-2). Therefore, no one today qualifies as an apostle.
          - There are only 12 Apostles because heaven only has 12 foundation stones with the 12 Apostles names written on them (Rev 21:14).
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- Therefore, we should not look to special and extra-biblical revelations to guide our lives.
  - We should look to the Word of God to form our minds and consciences in wisdom.
  - What is the role of the Holy Spirit?

- The Holy Spirit illumines our understanding of the Bible.
- The Spirit and Word always work together.
- Hearing the Spirit speak to us in His Word is sweet and intimate.