

LESSON 14: THE BIBLE (2)

Why believe the Bible?

We can mention all sorts of reasons with varying weight.

However, the one reason that counts is:

Self-authenticating

In principle, _____

It says _____

Besides this test, there is _____

Authority

As _____

And as _____

Therefore _____

Confession: Belgic Confession Articles 5 & 7 (see page 3 for the text)

1. Three reasons are named in article 5 for believing what the Bible says. Which three?

2. Which is the most important reason, the one mentioned first, second, or third? _____

3. What is sufficiently taught in the Bible? _____

4. What might be another way to say “the doctrine thereof”? _____

5. Which two texts are quoted to indicate that we may not entertain any ideas contrary to the Bible?

Sufficient!

The Bible _____

The Bible _____

In fact, _____

Inerrancy, infallibility

Inerrancy is from _____

Infallibility is from _____

In the strictest sense of the term, _____

Many people who use the word “inerrant” actually mean “infallible”.

The point is: _____

Clarity

The Bible _____

True, _____

But when it comes to _____

The clear message of the Bible in my own words

BELGIC CONFESSION

ARTICLE 5

The Authority of Holy Scripture

We receive¹ all these books, and these only, as holy and canonical, for the regulation, foundation, and confirmation of our faith.² We believe without any doubt all things contained in them, not so much because the church receives and approves them as such, but especially because the Holy Spirit witnesses in our hearts that they are from God,³ and also because they contain the evidence of this in themselves; for even the blind are able to perceive that the things foretold in them are being fulfilled.⁴

¹ 1 Thess 2:13. ² 2 Tim 3:16, 17. ³ 1 Cor 12:3; 1 Jn 4:6; 5:7. ⁴ Deut 18:21, 22; 1 Kings 22:28; Jer 28:9; Ezek 33:33.

ARTICLE 7

The Sufficiency of Holy Scripture

We believe that this Holy Scripture fully contains the will of God and that all that man must believe in order to be saved is sufficiently taught therein.¹ The whole manner of worship which God requires of us is written in it at length. It is therefore unlawful for any one, even for an apostle, to teach otherwise than we are now taught in Holy Scripture:² yes, *even if it be an angel from heaven*, as the apostle Paul says (Gal 1:8). Since it is forbidden to add to or take away anything from the Word of God (Deut 12:32),³ it is evident that the doctrine thereof is most perfect and complete in all respects.⁴

We may not consider any writings of men, however holy these men may have been, of equal value with the divine Scriptures; nor ought we to consider custom, or the great multitude, or antiquity, or succession of times and persons, or councils, decrees or statutes, as of equal value with the truth of God, since the truth is above all;⁵ for all men are of themselves liars, and are *lighter than a breath* (Ps 62:9). We therefore reject with all our heart whatever does not agree with this infallible rule,⁶ as the apostles have taught us: *Test the spirits to see whether they are from God* (1 Jn 4:1). Likewise: *If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting* (2 Jn 1:10).

¹ 2 Tim 3:16, 17; 1 Pet 1:10-12. ² 1 Cor 15:2; 1 Tim 1:3. ³ Deut 4:2; Prov 30:6; Acts 26:22; 1 Cor 4:6; Rev 22:18, 19. ⁴ Ps 19:7; Jn 15:15; Acts 18:28; 20:27; Rom 15:4. ⁵ Mk 7:7-9; Acts 4:19; Col 2:8; 1 Jn 2:19. ⁶ Deut 4:5, 6; Is 8:20; 1 Cor 3:11; Eph 4:4-6; 2 Thess 2:2; 2 Tim 3:14, 15.