

Got Bible for That?
The Implications of Biblical Authority
The Authority of Scripture
Sunday Evening Bible Study
January 18, 2015

1. This Winter-Spring, the Sunday Evening Bible Study will be team-taught by the pastors of First Bible Church, covering (in no particular order) these subjects:

The Authority of Scripture
The Inerrancy of Scripture
The Infallibility of Scripture
The Sufficiency of Scripture
Reading Scripture
Memorizing Scripture
Meditating on Scripture
Singing Scripture
Technology and Scripture
Sanctification and Scripture
Equipping the Saints and Scripture
Temptation and Scripture
Healing Your Past through Scripture

2. **The Authority of Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16–17)**

The authority of Scripture means that all the words in Scripture are God's words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God. (Grudem, 74).

3. **Scripture has authority over all traditions in the church (Gal. 1:14)**

- a. The teachings of all popes, priests, pastors, and teachers, councils, creeds, catechisms, and confessions must submit to Scripture.
- b. The traditions such as: Christmas, Easter, weddings, traditional music, contemporary music.
- c. Other traditions: purgatory, the priesthood, celibacy in the priesthood, pulpits, public invitations, walking an aisle, etc.

4. **Scripture has authority over all philosophy and the wisdom of man (1 Cor. 1:20-24)**

- a. Philosophy
- b. Political ideology
- c. Modern psychology
- d. Sociology

5. **Scripture has authority over all other Scripture in all religions (Gal. 1:8).**

- a. The Koran (Qu'ran)
- b. The Book of Mormon
- c. The Hindu Scriptures
- d. Etc.

6. **Scripture has authority over all of our feelings on any particular issue (Pr. 14:12; Jer. 17:9)**

Examples: Racism, abortion, divorce, co-habitation, same-sex marriage, etc.

7. **We Are In Good Company!**

Baptist Confession of Faith (1st London Confession, 1644)

The Rule of this Knowledge, Faith, and Obedience, concerning the worship and service of God, and all other Christian duties, is not man's inventions, opinions, devices, laws, constitutions, or traditions unwritten whatsoever, but only the word of God contained in the Canonical Scriptures.³¹

Westminster Confession (1646) and the Baptist Confession of Faith (2nd London Confession, 1689). The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed, and obeyed, depends not upon the testimony of any man, or Church; but wholly upon God (who is truth itself) the author thereof: and therefore it is to be received, because it is the Word of God.....

The supreme judge by which all controversies of religion are to be determined, and all decrees of councils, opinions of ancient writers, doctrines of men, and private spirits, are to be examined, and in whose sentence we are to rest, can be no other but the Holy Spirit speaking in the Scripture.

Thirty-Nine Articles of the Church of England (The Church hath power to decree Rites or Ceremonies, and authority in Controversies of Faith: and yet it is not lawful for the Church to ordain any thing that is contrary to God's Word written, neither may it so expound one place of Scripture, that it be repugnant to another. Wherefore, although the Church be a witness and a keeper of Holy Writ, yet, as it ought not to decree any thing against the same, so besides the same ought it not to enforce any thing to be believed for necessity of Salvation.

The Methodist Articles of Religion (1784)

The Holy Scripture containeth all things necessary to salvation; so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man that it should be believed as an article of faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation.

The Belgic Confession (1561)

Therefore we must not consider human writings—no matter how holy their authors may have been—equal to the divine writings; nor may we put custom, nor the majority, nor age, nor the passage of times or persons, nor councils, decrees, or official decisions above the truth of God, for truth is above everything else. For all human beings are liars by nature and more vain than vanity itself. Therefore we reject with all our hearts everything that does not agree with this infallible rule,

New Hampshire (Baptist) Confession of Faith (1833) We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction;¹ that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter;² that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union,³ and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

The Baptist Faith and Message (1925, 1963, 2000) The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

First Bible Church Statement of Faith (1965) We believe the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, written by men by God's control, inerrant and infallible in the original manuscripts, and the final authority in faith and