

Bibliology: Doctrine of Scripture

Topics: Inspiration; inerrancy; canon; authority; clarity; sufficiency; necessity; interpretation.

Key Question:	How do we know Scripture is God's Word, and why is it our final authority for faith and life?
Big Idea:	God speaks; therefore, the church listens. Scripture is the normative and sufficient rule that governs theology, worship, and obedience.

Doctrine at a Glance

- Scripture is God's inspired written Word and the church's final authority for faith and life.
- It protects the gospel from distortion and directs worship by showing us who God is and how he saves.
- How it connects: It supports every other doctrine by providing the foundation and boundaries for what we teach.

Core Claims

- Scripture is inspired (God's Word in human words) and therefore authoritative.
- Scripture is sufficient for knowing God savingly and for faithful discipleship.
- The canon is received, not created; the church recognizes what God has given.
- Scripture interprets Scripture: clearer texts govern less clear texts.

Key Terms

- **Revelation** — God's self-disclosure (not human religious insight).
- **General revelation** — God's witness in creation and providence; real but not saving in itself.
- **Special revelation** — God's redemptive speech in Christ, inscripturated in Scripture.
- **Inspiration** — the Spirit's work ensuring Scripture is God's Word through human authors.
- **Sufficiency** — Scripture contains all things necessary for salvation and faithful living.

Biblical Foundation (Key Texts)

- **2 Tim 3:16–17** — Scripture is God-breathed and equips the church.
- **2 Pet 1:20–21** — Spirit-supervised origin of prophetic/apostolic words.
- **Heb 1:1–2** — God's climactic self-revelation in the Son.
- **Ps 19** — Creation and Scripture both testify; Scripture is perfect for the soul.
- **Deut 29:29** — God reveals what His people need for obedience.

Confessional Touchpoints

- Westminster Confession of Faith (WCF) 1.1–10
- Belgic Confession Articles 2–7
- London Baptist Confession (1689) Chapter 1

Common Errors / Missteps

- **Rationalism:** human reason as final judge over Scripture.
- **Traditionalism:** tradition functioning as a second, equal rule.
- **Subjectivism:** inner experience detached from the text.
- **Proof-texting:** ignoring context and the storyline of Scripture.