



HUMBLY GLORIFYING GOD

The Doctrine of Scripture

At the center of Christian faith and practice stands the belief that God has spoken to the world in the person and work of Jesus Christ, which is accurately and authoritatively revealed in the Christian Bible (“the Bible,” “Scripture” or “the Scriptures”). The Bible is the inspired, inerrant, infallible, clear, necessary, complete, and sufficient Word of God and is thus the ultimate authority for life, faith, and morals. Though the various theological statements of the Church reflect succinct summaries of biblical boundaries, it is the Bible itself to which we are in ultimate submission.

Overview –

1. Inspiration of Scripture.
 - a. We believe in the verbal plenary inspiration of scripture. This is the understanding that every book of the Bible has two authors, the human and the divine. God ensures that every word that is in his book, down to the dotting of the “i” and crossing of the “t” is exactly how he wanted it to be, but in such a way that the uniqueness of the human author is not diminished in any way.
2. Inerrancy of Scripture.
 - a. We believe that scripture contains no errors in its original manuscripts. We further believe that the transmission of the text through history has been preserved by God and therefore does not contain any errors in doctrine or substance.
3. Infallibility of Scripture.
 - a. We believe that not only do the scriptures not contain any error but because scripture is God’s word and depends on Him for its transmission and preservation, that scripture is incapable of containing errors.
4. Authority of Scripture.
 - a. We Believe that the scripture is absolutely and unequivocally authoritative in everything that it speaks to. There is no higher authority. Everything must be tested and judged according to scripture.
5. Clarity of Scripture.
 - a. We believe that the scriptures are understandable through the illumination of the Holy Spirit. We further believe that the main things are so clear in scripture as to leave no doubt. This does not mean that everyone will have the same understanding, but that as we work and grow in our faith the Holy Spirit will continue to lead us in understanding.

6. Sufficiency of Scripture.

- a. We believe that Scripture alone is enough to teach men and women all they need to know to live in accordance with God's will. This does not mean that we reject other authorities, only that these other authorities, such as creeds, councils, and teachers, are only useful in as much as they point us back to scripture.

7. Necessity of Scripture.

- a. We believe that all of creation declares the glory and existence of God. This is what is known as natural revelation. While natural revelation is sufficient to show that God exists and to bear witness to the sinfulness of man, it is not enough for saving faith. Saving faith only comes through the word of God.

8. Completeness of Scripture.

- a. We believe that the scriptures are complete. This means that there is no new revelation. The canon of scripture is closed. The 66 books of the New and Old Testaments are the complete revelation that God has given to his people, and we should not look for additional revelation. This does not mean that God will not speak to his children, but that speaking will point us back to the scripture.