

**The 1689 Confession of Faith; Chapter 1 – “Of the Holy Scriptures”, Message # 17 –
“Scripture Cannot Be Broken”, Presented in the Adult Sunday School Class,
by Pastor Paul Rendall on October 20th, 2019.**

Paragraph 4 – The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed, dependeth not upon the testimony of any man or church, but wholly upon God (who is truth itself), the author thereof; therefore it is to be received because it is the Word of God.

2nd Peter 1: 19-21 2nd Timothy 3: 16 2nd Thessalonians 2: 13 1st John 5: 9

In past sessions I have been giving you propositions concerning this subject of the authority of the Scriptures.

The 1st Proposition – The Authority of the Scriptures rests upon the fact that God Himself, who is Truth itself, is the Author of it.

We thought about the idea that no book of Scripture or portion of Scripture came into existence simply by the will of man. It was men who wrote the Scriptures but they did not simply decide on their own to begin to write the books of the Bible that they wrote. They were “moved by the Holy Spirit. It was God the Father who ordained that they write them, and it was God the Holy Spirit who Personally guided them into all the truth of what they would write. He was right there in their mind and heart with them, directly inspiring them, directly enabling them to know and to write down the very words that He would have them to write down, so that we would know the things that God the Father would have us to know; particularly about our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Savior of Sinners, and the One upon whom all of our salvation depends.

The 2nd Proposition – The Authority of the Scriptures further rests upon God’s witness and testimony to them.

We looked at 1st John 5: 5-13 where it is said that – If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater. The testimony of God is found in the Scriptures, concerning Jesus being the Son of God, and of life and eternal life being found in Him and through Him. If we do not believe that witness, we are making God a liar. These things John wrote down that we might know that we have eternal life when we believe in the Scriptural word concerning God’s Son.

Now, today we want to look at the truth that the Scriptures are Sufficient for every area of our faith and practice, especially in regard to wielding the truth of God against the Devil and all false religionists.

Our 3rd Proposition – For you as a Christian to effectively do battle with the Devil, and false religion, you must see the word of God as the sword of the Spirit; a sword which cannot be broken.

We looked at Ephesians 6: 10-18 and we thought together about how we need to learn to wield the word of God as a sword against the Devil like the Lord Jesus did when He was in the wilderness being tempted by Devil. He used the Scriptures for His authority to give Him the fortitude of spirit that He needed to resist the temptation of the Devil. And He did not command the stones to become bread, and thus He did not step outside of the will of God His Father for Him that He would not act independently of the Father’s will to do miracles on His own initiative.

In our last session we did not get far enough, however, to talk about how the Lord Jesus, in His interactions with the scribes, the Pharisees and the rulers of Israel, used the word of God as a sword which cannot be broken. Jesus wielded the word of God authoritatively with those who did not believe in Him and would not receive His words. This is what we want to think about together here this morning.

Proposition 4 – In order for us as Christians to effectively speak to those who oppose Christ and His word, we ourselves must believe that the word of God cannot be broken.

What does this mean?

John 10, verses 22-38 – “Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter.” “And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon’s porch.” “Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, ‘How long do You keep us in doubt?’ “If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.” “Jesus answered them, ‘I told you, and you do not believe.’ “The works that I do in My Father’s name, they bear witness of Me.” “But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.” “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.” “And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.” “My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.” “I and My Father are one.” “Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him.” “Jesus answered them, ‘Many good works I have shown you from My Father.’ “For which of those works do you stone Me?’ “The Jews answered Him, saying, ‘For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.’ “Jesus answered them, ‘Is it not written in your law, I SAID, YOU ARE GODS?’ “If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God?’” “If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him.”

You can see here that every time that Jesus brought up the fact that He was not only a Man, but God, that the Jews would pick up stones to stone Him. He was doing the works of God His Father He said to them, and that ought to have been enough to convince them that He was the Christ, the Son of the Living God. But His doing the works of God was not enough to convince them. Jesus then went on to show them why it was that they were not convinced, why they did not believe in Him. He plainly tells them that they did not believe because they were not of His sheep. Here Jesus shows the authority of His words which became a part of the Scriptures that we now hold in our hands. Those who were Christ’s sheep would hear His word; they would hear His voice. Why? Because it had been granted to them by the Father. In John 6: 36, Jesus said to those who were grappling with whether Christ was the Son of God, their Messiah, said – “But I said to the that you have seen Me and yet do not believe.” “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.”

Then we must ask ourselves – Why would they not come to Christ? It is because they did not recognize the authority of God in the things that He was saying. Those who believed in Christ, believed, because they recognized the voice of God the Father’s authority in all that He said. And this was something that was given to them by the Father and by the Son Himself. Matthew 11: 25 – “At that time Jesus answered and said, ‘I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,

that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.” “All things have been delivered to me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father.” “Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son will to reveal Him.”

If they would not hear His voice, He told them that it was because their hearts did not want to receive Him as the ultimate authority sent to them by God to tell them how they might have eternal life. He would give the invitation in Matthew 11: 28 – “Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy-laden and I will give you rest. But many were not heavy-laden; rather, they were self-righteous. Jesus explains in verse 26 of John 10, that they did not believe because they were not of His sheep. He does not say that they were not His sheep because they did not believe. But rather, he says just the opposite. He said this in this way because He knew that they had not been given to Him by the Father to save, and thus they could not hear His voice.

Jesus knows all who are His own, He says in verse 27, because they follow Him, and He gives eternal life to them, and they shall never perish. No one could snatch them out of His hand, He says, and no one could snatch them out of the Father’s hand, because the Father is greater than all. He states plainly to them in verse 30 that He and His Father were one. That is when they picked up the stones to stone Him. They are disbelieving His authoritative word about Himself. And so He attempts to bring them then to conviction of their sin of wanting to murder Him. He says in verse 32 – “Many good works I have shown you from My Father.” “For which of those works do you stone Me?” They answered Him that it was not because of the works but because He being a Man made Himself out to be God.

They thought that He was blaspheming; that He being a Man, was making Himself out to be God. (verse 33) And so Jesus then uses this powerful Scriptural defense of Himself and His authority as the Son of God. So He said – Doesn’t it say in your law – I said you are gods? If He (that is God, the Author of the Scripture) called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), do you say of Him whom the Father sent and sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God?’ Turn with me over to Psalm 82, verses 1-6, and I will read this to you – “God stand in the congregation of the mighty; He judges among the gods.” “How long will you judge unjustly, and show partiality to the wicked?” “Selah.” “Defend the poor and fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and needy.” “Deliver the poor and needy; free them from the hand of the wicked.” “They do not know, or do they understand; they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are unstable.” “I said, ‘You are gods, and all of you are children of the Most High.’ “But you shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes.” “Arise, O God, judge the earth; for You shall inherit the nations.”

Now, these Pharisees should have been able to receive this Biblical argument, of the lesser to the greater; that those to whom the word of God came; those princes of the people and magistrates (rulers) as they were called “gods” in Psalm 82; they were all of them children of the most High, those created in the image and likeness of God. They were rulers among the people in Israel. He was saying, if God calls you gods, you should not say of the One whom the Father sent into the World and sanctified Him to the work of being the Savior of the World and Lord of all Mankind – You are not the Son of God. He was saying – You ought to be able to receive this since the Scriptures cannot be broken and I the Essential Word of God are the fulfillment of the all the promises and prophecies of the Scriptures, to you. Christ was fulfilling these verses to

these unbelieving Pharisees – “God stands in the congregation of the mighty; He judges among the gods.”

You see, in their hearts they were set against Jesus and the truth of the Scriptures. Why does Jesus say (and the word cannot be broken)? It is because God’s power is behind it and in it, and as a result it is the authoritative word which God Himself uses to govern and judge all men by. And therefore, if we would be wise, we must submit to it and not fight against it. It cannot be broken because all of it is true, and all of it is applicable in an authoritative way to direct us into what is true. It cannot be nullified, it cannot be made void. There is no contradicting it. No one should object to it. It cannot be broken; it will be established!

John 12: 46-50 – “I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.” “And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.” “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him – the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.” “For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.” “And I know that His command is everlasting life.” “Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.”

You can see from Jesus’ words that clearly He is stating that the word of God which He had spoken has authority, for on the last day, people will be judged by Jesus’ words. Even the Lord Jesus did not speak on His own authority, but the Father who sent Him gave Him a command, that those things which He should say and speak have His, the Father’s authority behind them. And joy of joys, the Father’s authoritative command is that the one believing in the Lord Jesus, and His words, has eternal life!