

**The 1689 Confession of Faith; Chapter 1 – “Of the Holy Scriptures”, Message # 16 –
“The Scriptures – A Sword”, Presented in the Adult Sunday School Class,
by Pastor Paul Rendall on October 6th, 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

Two weeks ago, we looked at 2nd Peter 1: 12-21 and I gave you the proposition that –

1. 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.

Then, last Sunday I gave you a 2nd Proposition:

2. 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.

Ephesians 6: 10-17 – “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.” “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers,

against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” “ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.” “Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.” “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

The pieces of spiritual armor which are listed here are: 1) truth for the girding of the waist 2) righteousness for a breastplate 3) the gospel of peace for shoes or covering the feet 4) faith, which acts as a shield to the Devil’s fiery darts 5) salvation for a helmet to protect the head of the believer 6) the word of God which is a spiritual sword.

Now, I want you to be able to see that each of these pieces of armor is related to the scriptures because it is in the Scriptures that we find truth for girding the waist, and where we are told of Christ’s righteousness which covers all of our heart and all of our actions. It is the Scriptures which tell us what the gospel of Christ is; that which brings peace between God and ourselves, and gives us peace when we are under Satanic attack. It is Scripture truth found in the Bible that protects us as we exercise our faith, and thus we can quench the fiery darts of the evil one. And the knowledge of our salvation in Christ defined for us in the Bible which protects our head; that is, the truth of the Scriptures helps us to ward off doubts and fears and the attacks of the enemy to our mind. And the word of God, the truth of the Scriptures is that which we learn to wield, most effectively as we search it, and meditate upon it, and use it in the various spiritual conflicts that we come into day by day.

We find a good example of the Lord Jesus using the sword of the Spirit in –

Matthew 4: 1-4 – “Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.” “And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.” “Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, ‘If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.’” “But He answered and said, ‘It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”

Now, it ought to be very obvious to us that what the Devil was trying to do with the Lord Jesus in this temptation was to get Him to act independently of His Father’s will in regard to how He used His miraculous powers. The Devil wanted Jesus to command that the stones would become bread. Jesus was very hungry, but He knew that He could not do things outside of the Father’s will for Him, such as using His miraculous powers in this way, and so He said to the Devil – “Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” In this, He shows forth His submission to His Father’s will, and at the same time shows forth the fact that He as the God-Man in his human nature could survive, he could live, without taking matters into his own hands to do something which would satisfy his hunger temporarily. And so, He declared the authority and sufficiency of the Scripture by asserting to Himself and to the Devil this mighty principle of truth – “Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” That is where the power of His human life resided. He could resist the Devil’s suggestion to create bread, by His referring him to God’s authoritative word. That was enough to defeat the Devil’s strategy. Jesus showed that He was governed by the authoritative truth of the word of God, and that indeed, in His human nature, He lived by that authoritative, and we might add, nourishing, strengthening, and encouraging, word of God.

By way of application – When we are tempted by the Devil, we need to see where our spiritual life resides. It does not reside with our fleshly strength, in our own self-determination, no matter how strong we are in our resolve. It resides in the word of God, and when that word is brought to our remembrance, in connection with the Spirit’s working in our heart, we are then enabled to resist the temptation and to overcome the evil one.