

Perfect and Complete

Belgic Confession, Article 7

1. **INSPIRATION AND CANON:** The last two weeks serve as the foundation for what we confess this week:

- a. Two weeks ago we studied the doctrine of “inspiration,” the confession of faith that all Scripture is “_____.”

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

- b. Last week we studied the doctrine of canon: The canonical books are those that the church received as representing the _____ of the apostles to Jesus Christ, arising out of the “apostolic matrix” of the early church.
- c. The idea of canon is a principle internal to Scripture, not a measure imposed upon Scripture from without. God’s Word calls, summons, gathers, and _____ his people.

2. **THE SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE:** We confess that Scripture is sufficient in _____: “everything one must believe to be saved” and “the entire manner of service which God requires of us.”

- a. This doctrine of the sufficiency of Scripture naturally _____ from what we have confessed about inspiration and the canon of Scripture.

But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. (Galatians 1:8)

- b. This means we reject the idea that the authority of church tradition functions in any way as further revelation _____ or in addition to Scripture.
- c. This means we reject the idea of continuing _____ revelation.

3. **GETTING THIS RIGHT:** The doctrine of the sufficiency of Scripture is carefully _____ (note the two ways quoted in point 2, above), and does not mean we reject other real authorities.

- a. We still affirm that God makes himself known through _____ revelation (Psalm 19:1).
- b. We still submit to _____ authority as an authority subservient to Scripture.
- c. We still receive church history and _____ as having real authority.
- d. We still require _____ as a gift of God (James 1:5).
- e. The Holy Spirit is actively at _____, enabling us to receive God’s Word by faith and uniting us to Christ, the Wisdom of God.