

THE CONFESSION OF FAITH.

CHAPTER I.-*Of the Holy Scripture.*

II. Under the name of Holy Scripture, or the Word of God written; are now contained all the Books of the Old and New Testament, which are these:

Of the Old Testament.

Genesis.	II. Chronicles	Daniel.
Exodus.	Ezra.	Hosea.
Leviticus.	Nehemiah.	Joel.
Numbers.	Esther.	Amos.
Deuteronomy.	Job.	Obadiah.
Joshua.	Psalms.	Jonah.
Judges.	Proverbs.	Micah.
Ruth.	Ecclesiastes.	Nahum.
I. Samuel.	The Song of Songs.	Habakkuk.
II. Samuel.	Isaiah.	Zephaniah.
I. Kings.	Jeremiah.	Haggai.
II. Kings.	Lamentations.	Zechariah.
I. Chronicles.	Ezekiel.	Malachi.

Of the New Testament.

Matthew.	Galatians.	The Epistle to the Hebrews.
Mark.	Ephesians.	The Epist. of James.
Luke.	Philippians.	The first and second Epistles of Peter.
John.	Colossians.	The first, second, and third Epistles of John.
The Acts of the Apostles.	Thessalonians I.	The Epistle of Jude.
Paul's Epistle to the Romans.	Thessalonians II.	The Revelation.
Corinthians I.	To Timothy I.	
Corinthians II.	To Timothy II.	
	To Titus.	
	To Philemon.	

All which are given by inspiration of God, to be the Rule of Faith and Life.¹

Question 1—*Do the Books of the Old and New Testaments come under the name of the holy Scripture, and Word of God?*

Answer—Yes. Because: 1.) Christ says, if he called them gods, unto whom the Word of God came, and the Scripture cannot be broken, John 10:35. Here it is evident, that the Word of God, and the Scripture, are the same. 2.) The predictions of the Prophets, are expressly called the Word of God, 2 Chron. 36:22. Here we see, that the written Prophecies of Jeremiah, which are a part of the holy Scripture, are called the Word of God. 3.) What Christ calls the commandment of God, He calls the Word of God, Mark 7:9, 10, 13. 4.) The Apostle calls the sword of the

¹ Luke 16:29, 31; Eph. 2:20; Rev. 22:18, 19; 2 Tim. 3:16.

Spirit, the Word of God. This sword, is the sword of the Holy Spirit, which he does, as it were, put in our hand, to resist Satan, against all his temptations, Eph. 6:17. The sword of the Spirit, must be understood to mean the Scripture, not the Spirit itself. This is evident, in the fourth chapter of Matthew, where Christ being tempted by the Devil, with three different temptations, resists him with three different places of Scripture. Also, when asked by the Pharisees, why his Disciples plucked ears of Corn on the Sabbath day, He answered by Scripture, Matt. 12:1-4. Satan's temptations must be carefully answered, and that by Scripture, as the only mean to overcome him, and his Instruments. 5.) The Word of God, is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, Heb. 4:12. This cannot be understood of Christ, because Paul in his other writings does not call the Person of Christ by this name, and therefore must be understood of the word of the Gospel, the power whereof is described in Rom. 1:16. 6.) See the following places of Scripture: Psalm 119:172; 1 Kings 16:12; 2 Kings 9:36; 23:16; Isa. 28:13; Hos. 1:1, 2; Isa. 37:22; Prov. 30:5. By the Scripture, or Word of God, we do not understand the bare letters, or the several written words of holy Scripture, which many mistakenly imagine to be the Word of God. These are only the Vessels, which carry and convey that Heavenly Light to us. Rather, we understand thereby, the Doctrine or Will of God revealed to reasonable creatures, teaching them, what to do, believe, or leave undone, Deut. 29:29.

Question 2—*Are the Scriptures given of God, to be the Rule of Faith and Life?*

Answer—Yes. Luke 16:29, 31; Eph. 2:20; Rev. 22:18, 19; 2 Tim. 3:16. Thus, the Popish Church err, who maintain their Unwritten Traditions to be the Rule of Faith. Likewise, the Mystics, who maintain, the Spirit within, that teaches the Elect, to be the only Rule of Faith, or the Dictates of the Light within, are of as great authority as the Scriptures, do greatly err. Because: 1.) The Scriptures are called a Rule, Gal. 6:16. 2.) Nothing is to be added to the Scriptures, Deut. 4:2; 12:32; Prov. 30:6; Rev. 22:19, 20. 3.) We ought rather to follow the Scriptures in this Life, than a voice spoken from Heaven, 2 Pet. 1:19, 21. 4.) The Scripture is written, that we may believe, John 20:31. 5.) The Scripture is given for making the man of God perfect, 2 Tim. 3:17. 6.) We must betake ourselves in the whole of Religion to the Law, and to the Testimony, Isa. 8:20. 7.) Christ himself, refers the greatest question, that ever was, whether he be the Son of God, or not, to the Scriptures, John 5:38, 39. Search the Scriptures (says he) for they testify of me. 8.) The Holy Ghost did never give such a designation to his own Word, as an Historical Rule, and dead Letter. Nor are they not the principal Fountain of Truth, and knowledge; or the first rule of Faith and Manners. Their true worth, excellency, and certainty comes not from their subordination to the Spirit; but, as Paul says expressly, Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God, Rom. 10:14. 9.) The spirits cannot be known, by any other Rule, than by the written Word. It is certain, that the Devil transforms himself into an Angel of light, 2 Cor. 11:14. There is a spirit of the World, 1 Cor. 2:12. A spirit that rules in the hearts of the children of disobedience, Eph. 2:2. There is a lying spirit, 1 Kings 22:22. And a spirit of error and delusion, 1 John 4:6. How shall these be known to be the one or the Spirit, except by the Rule of the Word?

Question 3—*Has any Canonical Book perished?*

Answer—No. No canonical book has perished, and if any books have perished, they are not worthy of this character. Because: 1.) Christ himself asserted that not one jot or tittle could perish, Luke 16:17; Matt. 5:18. If not one of the smallest of letters could fail, how much less could several canonical books? 2.) Luke and Paul make declarations inconsistent with such an assumption, Luke 24:27; Rom. 15:4. If portions of the Old Testament had perished, how could they make such declarations? 3.) The providence of God over the safety of his Church, which safety is tied to the Scripture, could not have the body of Scripture mutilated or defective, else they would not lead to perfection [*i.e.*, completeness], Eph. 1:11; 2 Tim. 3:17. 4.) The duty of the Church in regard religiously to preserve the oracles of God committed to her, *cf.* Rom. 3:2; 9:4. From the practice of the Jews, who admit no other canonical books of the Old Testament than do Protestants. The books which are supposed to be lost were either not sacred and canonical (such as Num. 21:14; Jos. 10:13; 2 Sam. 1:18; 1 Kings 14:19, 20; 15:7), containing no religious doctrines, but were either political annals or tables of public acts and statutes, as is evident from 1 Kings 11:41. Other books, supposed to be lost, may still remain under different titles; as 1 Chron. 29:29; 2 Chron. 9:29; 2 Chron. 12:15; as the Jews and some of the fathers testify, these form part of the books of Samuel and Kings.

Question 4—*Are the Books of the Old Testament still part of the Canon of Faith and Rule of Practice in the Church of the New Testament?*

Answer—Yes. Because: 1.) Christ enjoins believers to the hearing of Moses and the prophets, Luke 16:29. 2.) The New Testament Church is built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets (*i.e.*, upon their doctrine), Eph. 2:20. 3.) All things have been written for the good and edification of the Church, Rom. 15:4. 4.) The canon of the Old Testament suffices for faith and practice, 2 Tim. 3:15, 16. 5.) Christ directs the Jews to search the Scriptures that they might have eternal life, John 5:39. He undoubtedly spoke concerning the Old Testament. 6.) The Old Testament contains the same doctrine in substance with the New, both in matters of faith and practice, Rom. 1:2; 16:25, 26. Paul declares the whole counsel of God, Acts 20:27; while professing no other teachings than those of Moses and the prophets, Acts 26:22. There is no new law, Matt. 22:37, 39. 7.) If the Old Testament is not important for Christians, then the Jews could prove that Jesus is not the Messiah; for He came to fulfil the prophecies, Luke 24:27, 44; Acts 10:43; 17:11; 26:22; Rom. 3:21.