

Christ Presbyterian Church

Officer's Training

Lesson #1

AN OUTLINE OF THE WESTMINSTER CONFSSION OF FAITH

Lesson #1

Chapter I: Of The Holy Scriptures

I: i

God reveals Himself in two distinct ways:

A. In the World (*Psalm 19*)

1. “Light of nature” (within man’s heart)
2. “Work of creation” (what is outside man)
3. “Works of providence” (what goes on in the world)

The Revelation of God in the World leaves man without excuse

(Romans 1:19,20), yet it is not enough because man can so easily misread it and refuse to hear it.

B. In the Church (*Hebrews 1:1,2; Galatians 1:11,12*)

1. “Sundry times” (various times)
2. “Divers manners” (various ways)
 - a. Spoken words
 - b. Appearances
 - c. Visions and dreams
 - d. Incarnation

3. The Holy Scriptures

The Special Revelation of God in the Church was put into written form for our great benefit. Indeed, written revelation is all we have today, because the other forms of Special Revelation are not used by God now.

I: ii, iii

The Content of the Word of God written is defined two ways:

A. Inclusion

1. All sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments included.
2. They were given by inspiration of God.
(*II Timothy 3:16, “God breathed.”*)

B. Exclusion

The Apocrypha is not of God.

I: iv, v

The Authority of Holy Scripture:

- it
- A. The authority the Bible has is due to the fact that it is true. It is true because it is the Word of God. We believe and obey it because God said it. What the Bible says, God says, and is the truth. (*I Thessalonians 2:13; II Peter 1:21*)
 - B. The perfection of the message and style helps persuade us it is the Word of God.
 - C. However, “Full persuasion and assurance,” of its “Infallible truth and divine authority” come from the Holy Spirit’s speaking by the Bible to us. (*I Corinthians 2:6-11*)

I: vi

Scripture is Sufficient (Enough):

- A. Sufficient for all man’s spiritual needs.
- B. Sufficient for all time (nothing to be added).
- C. Sufficient in principles - not in details.

An Outline of the Westminster Confession of Faith

Lesson #1, Chapter I, continued:

I: vii

Scripture is clear in its meaning about essentials:

- A. Some points clearer than others (*II Peter 3:16*).
- B. All that is necessary for salvation is clear enough for all to understand - the educated and the uneducated (*Acts 17:1,15*)

I: viii

The Languages of the Bible:

- A. Originally written in Hebrew and Greek.
- B. Originals given by immediate inspiration from God. Therefore, questions should be decided on basis of original languages.
- C. God has kept the copies pure.
- D. The original language must be translated into the everyday language of all peoples.

I: ix

How to Interpret Scripture:

- A. Scripture interprets itself.
- B. Difficult places are made understandable by clearer passages.
- C. The meaning of the Bible is not contradictory, but it is always in unity and harmony.

I: x

The Judge and final authority in any religious controversy is the Holy Spirit speaking in the Scriptures (*Matthew 22:29,31*).

Lesson #1

ASSIGNMENT:

1. The Westminster Confession of Faith,
Read: Chapter I, "Of the Holy Scriptures,"
Read: G. I. Williamson , pages 1-22
2. Read: The qualifications of Elders and Deacons, *1 Timothy 3:1-15; Titus 1:5-11; Acts 20:17, 28.*

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. Are the light of nature, and the works of creation and providence sufficient to give that knowledge of God and knowledge of His Will which is necessary unto salvation? (Answer is found in The Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter I, paragraph 1.)

Yes No

2. Do the light of nature, and the works of creation and providence so far manifest (reveal) the goodness, wisdom, and power of God, as to leave men inexcusable? (WCF, I/I)

Yes No

3. God revealed Himself and declared His will to His Church in special ways and committed the same revelation wholly unto writing. Name some reasons why God gave written revelation. (WCF, I/I.)

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

4. Is the Holy Scripture most necessary for salvation? (WCF, I/I) Yes No

5. Have these former ways of God's revealing His will unto His people now ceased? (WCF I/1)

Yes No

6. Are the Books commonly called Apocrypha given by inspiration of God, or just the Books of the Old and New Testaments? (WCF, I/II, III)

Is the Apocrypha God's Word or human writings? (WCF, I/ II, III)

7. Who is the author of the Holy Scripture? (WCF, I/ IV)

Lesson #1, Questions continued:

8. Many things persuade the Christian that the Holy Scripture is infallible truth, but on what is our full persuasion and assurance of its infallible truth and divine authority based? (WCF, I/ V)

9. Is everything necessary for God's glory and man's salvation, faith, and life set down in Scripture or do we need to add new revelation or traditions of men to Scripture? (WCF, I/ VI)

10. What is necessary for the saving understanding of such things as are revealed in the Word? (WCF, I/ VI)

11. Are those things necessary to be known, believed, and observed for salvation clearly taught in Scripture? (WCF, I/ VII) Yes No

12. Why is Scripture to be translated in the vulgar (common) language of every nation? (WCF, I/ VIII)

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

13. What is the infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture? (WCF, I/ IX)

14. Who is the Supreme Judge and final authority in religion and the church? (WCF, I/ X)

15. Is Scripture (the Bible) without error (inerrant)? Yes No

16. Show from *Titus 1:5-7* (also, *Acts 20:17, 28*) that Elder and Bishop are the same office.

Lesson #1, Questions continued:

17. List the qualifications for an Elder (or Bishop) as given in *I Timothy 3:2-7*:

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| (1) _____ | (9) _____ |
| (2) _____ | (10) _____ |
| (3) _____ | (11) _____ |
| (4) _____ | (12) _____ |
| (5) _____ | (13) _____ |
| (6) _____ | (14) _____ |
| (7) _____ | (15) _____ |
| (8) _____ | (16) _____ |

18. List qualifications of an Elder as given in *Titus 1:6-9*:

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| (1) _____ | (9) _____ |
| (2) _____ | (10) _____ |
| (3) _____ | (11) _____ |
| (4) _____ | (12) _____ |
| (5) _____ | (13) _____ |
| (6) _____ | (14) _____ |
| (7) _____ | (15) _____ |
| (8) _____ | (16) _____ |

19. List qualifications of a Deacon as given in *I Timothy 3:8-12*:

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| (1) _____ | (6) _____ |
| (2) _____ | (7) _____ |
| (3) _____ | (8) _____ |
| (4) _____ | (9) _____ |
| (5) _____ | (10) _____ |