

Article of Faith 2 The Scriptures

- Article of Faith #2 – The Scriptures
 - We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, King James Translation, are the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.

1. Divine Inspiration of the Bible

- A. The scriptures were divinely inspired by God for the benefit of His children
 - 2 Tim. 3:16-17 – *“16) All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17) That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”*
- B. God actually speaks to His people by the scriptures through the medium of the prophets and men who penned the word of God
 - Heb. 1:1 – *“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,”*
 - Rom. 1:2 – *“(Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)”*
 - Rom. 16:26 – *“But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:”*
- C. Men were moved by the Holy Ghost to pen the scriptures
 - i. Although the scriptures were penned by men, they are actually of divine (not natural) origin and did not come from any private interpretations of men but were sent down from heaven by the direction of the Holy Spirit of God
 - 2 Peter 1:19-21 – *“19) We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20) Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21) For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”*
 - 1 Peter 1:10-12 – *“10) Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: 11) Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. 12) Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.”*
 - Rev. 2:7 – *“He hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches...”*

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1. Divine Inspiration of the Bible (continued)

C. Men were moved by the Holy Ghost to pen the scriptures (continued)

ii. David wrote by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit

- Mark 12:36 – *“For David himself said by the Holy Ghost, The LORD said to my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool.”* (Matt. 22:43)
 - Jesus Christ Himself acknowledges in His quotation of Psalm 110:1 that King David spoke *“by the Holy Ghost”* in writing the verse that Jesus was quoting
- Ps. 45:1 – *“My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.”*
- 2 Sam. 23:2 – *“The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue.”*
- 1 Chr. 28:19 – *“All this, said David, the LORD made me understand in writing by his hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern.”*
- Acts 1:16 – *“Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.”*
- Heb. 4:7 – *“Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, Today after so long a time; as it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.”*

iii. Isaiah spoke by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit

- Acts 28:25-27 – *“(25) And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers, 26) Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand...”*

iv. The Apostles were super-naturally able to recall events and the exact words that Jesus said even after multiple years had passed through the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit because the gospels were not penned until years after the events actually occurred

- John 14:26 – *“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”*

D. The New Testament was penned from the eye-witness testimonies of the apostles

- 1 John 1:1-3,5 – *“(1) That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; 2) (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) 3) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us...5) This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”*

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1. Divine Inspiration of the Bible (continued)

D. The New Testament was penned from the eye-witness testimonies of the apostles (continued)

- Luke 1:1-4 – *“1) Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, 2) Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and minister of the word; 3) It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, 4) That thou mightiest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.”*
- The scriptures of both the Old and New Testament are the testimony of and about the Lord Jesus Christ
 - John 5:39 – *“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”*

2. Divine Preservation of the Bible

A. The word of God will endure and be preserved by God forever

- Ps. 117:2 – *“...the truth of the LORD endureth for ever. Praise ye the Lord.”*
- Ps. 119:160 – *“Thy word is true from the beginning; and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.”*
- Ps. 119:144 – *“The righteousness of thy testimonies is everlasting...”*
- Ps. 100:5 – *“For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.”*
- Ps. 33:11 – *“The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.”*
- Ps. 119:89 – *“For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.”*

B. God’s “words” – the individual words of the Bible, not just the general principles – will be preserved forever

- Ps. 12:6-7 – *“6) The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. 7) Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation forever.”*
 - Prov. 30:5 – *“Every word of God is pure...”*
- Matt. 24:35 – *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”*
- John 10:35 – *“If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;”*

C. God’s word is pure and perfect – the scripture cannot be corrupted

- Prov. 30:5 – *“Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.”*

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2. Divine Preservation of the Bible (continued)

C. God's word is pure and perfect – the scripture cannot be corrupted (continued)

- Ps. 19:7-9 – *“7) The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. 8) The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. 9) The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.”*
- 2 Sam. 22:31 – *“As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him.”*
- Ps. 33:4 – *“For the word of God is right; and all his words are done in truth.”*
- John 10:35 – *“...the scripture cannot be broken;”*

D. The church's commitment to the truth

- God is the standard of truth
 - God of truth – Deut. 32:4, Ps. 31:5, Isaiah 65:16
 - Jesus is the truth – John 14:6, John 1:14-17, John 5:33
 - Spirit of truth – John 14:17, John 15:26, John 16:13
- God's word is the truth
 - John 17:17 – *“...thy word [God's word] is truth...”*
 - Ps. 119:142 – *“...thy law is the truth.”*
 - Ps. 119:151 – *“...all thy commandments are truth.”*
 - Ps. 119:160 – *“Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.”*
- God's truth will endure forever
 - Ps. 117:2 – *“...the truth of the Lord endureth for ever...”*
 - Ps. 100:5 – *“...his truth endureth to all generations.”*
 - Ps. 119:160 – *“Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.”*
 - Ps. 119:144 – *“The righteousness of thy testimonies is everlasting...”*
- The church is commanded to be the “pillar and ground of the truth”
 - 1 Tim. 3:15 – *“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”*
- The church is commanded to worship “in spirit and in truth”
 - John 4:23-24 – *“23) But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24) God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”*

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2. Divine Preservation of the Bible (continued)

- E. God's word does not change or evolve but was delivered perfectly and completely by God through His inspiration – *"...the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."* (Jude 3) – therefore, we are sternly commanded to not add or take away from the word of God
- Rev. 22:18-19 – *"18) For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19) And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of the prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."*
 - Prov. 30:5-6 – *"5) Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. 6) Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar."*
 - Deut. 4:2 – *"Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you."*
 - Deut. 12:32 – *"What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish it."*

3. The scriptures are the only rule of faith and practice in the church

- A. The church is the custodian of the truth of God's word and we must uphold the commandments that God has delivered to the church
- 1 Tim. 3:15 – *"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."*
 - Jude 3 – *"Behold, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints."*
 - Matt. 28:20 – *"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."*
- B. God has provided everything the church needs in the scriptures, there is no need to supplement God's word with an additional material, manuals, or books
- 2 Peter 1:3 – *"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue."*
- C. The church must accept the scriptures as the actual commandments of God himself
- 1 Cor. 14:37 – *"If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord."*

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3. The scriptures are the only rule of faith and practice in the church (continued)

C. The church must accept the scriptures as the actual commandments of God (cont'd)

- 1 Thess. 2:13 – *“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.”*
- Jesus equated acceptance or rejection of Him with acceptance or rejection of His words, so if we reject the word of God, we reject Jesus Christ Himself
 - John 12:47-50 – *“47) And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. 48) He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day...”*

D. The scriptures are the standard for doctrine, reproof, and instruction in the church

- 2 Tim. 3:16 – *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”*

E. The scriptures are the standard for how we are to behave in the house of the Lord

- 1 Tim. 3:15 – *“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”*

F. On an individual basis, we must each affirm that God's word is perfect and the supreme standard for truth in our lives

- Ps. 119:128 – *“Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.”*