

Things Most Surely Believed Among Us:
An Exposition of the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith
Chapter 1: Of the Holy Scriptures

I. THE NECESSITY OF THE SCRIPTURES (Paragraph 1)

II. THE IDENTITY OF THE SCRIPTURES (Paragraphs 2-3)

III. THE AUTHORITY OF THE SCRIPTURES (Paragraphs 4-5)

IV. THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE SCRIPTURES (Paragraph 6)

A. THE DECLARATION OF SCRIPTURE'S SUFFICIENCY

1. The Extent of Biblical Sufficiency

- A. *THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD*
- B. *CONCERNING ALL THINGS NECESSARY FOR GOD'S GLORY*
- C. *CONCERNING ALL THINGS NECESSARY FOR MAN'S SALVATION, FAITH, AND LIFE*

2. The Mode of Biblical Sufficiency

- A. *EXPRESSLY SET DOWN*
- B. *NECESSARILY CONTAINED*

3. The Implication of Scripture's Sufficiency

- A. *NOTHING IS TO BE ADDED AT ANY TIME*
 - i. *Not through New Revelation of the Spirit*
 - ii. *Not through the Traditions of Men*

B. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SCRIPTURE'S SUFFICIENCY

1. The Necessity of the Spirit's Illumination for Saving Understanding

2. The Necessity of Sanctified Common Sense for Some Circumstances

- A. *THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THIS IS NECESSARY*
 - i. *Some Circumstances Concerning the Worship of God*
 - ii. *Some Circumstances Concerning the Government of the Church*
- B. *THE INSTRUMENTS BY WHICH THESE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE ORDERED*
 - i. *Through the Light of Nature*
 - ii. *Through Christian Wisdom*
 - iii. *According to General Biblical Principles*

V. THE PERSPICUITY OF THE SCRIPTURES (Paragraph 7)

A. THE QUALIFICATION OF SCRIPTURE'S CLARITY

1. All Things in Scripture Are Not Alike Plain in Themselves

2. All Things in Scripture Are Not Alike Clear unto All

B. THE DECLARATION OF SCRIPTURE'S CLARITY

1. The Scope of Scripture's Clarity

- A. *THOSE THINGS NECESSARY TO BE KNOWN FOR SALVATION*
- B. *THOSE THINGS NECESSARY TO BE BELIEVED FOR SALVATION*
- C. *THOSE THINGS NECESSARY TO BE OBSERVED FOR SALVATION*

2. The Mode of Scripture's Clarity

- A. *CLEARLY PROPOUNDED AND OPENED*
- B. *IN SOME PLACE OF SCRIPTURE OR OTHER*

3. The Extent of Scripture's Clarity

- A. *WITH RESPECT TO EDUCATION: NOT ONLY THE LEARNED BUT THE UNLEARNED*
- B. *WITH RESPECT TO MEANS: (NOT EXTRAORDINARY BUT) ORDINARY*
- C. *WITH RESPECT TO UNDERSTANDING: (NOT EXHAUSTIVE BUT) SUFFICIENT*