

The Self-attesting Authority of Scripture

An amended Version of the Baptist Confession of 1689 (Ch. 1.5):

We may be moved and induced by the testimony of the Church of God to a high and reverent esteem of the Holy Scriptures; and the heavenliness of the matter, the efficacy of the doctrine, and the majesty of the style, the consent of all the parts, the scope of the whole (which is to give all glory to God), the full discovery it makes of the only way of man's salvation, and many other incomparable excellencies, and entire perfections thereof, are arguments whereby it does abundantly evidence itself to be the Word of God. Yet notwithstanding, our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth and divine authority thereof is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit, bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts. [Jo. 16:13-14; 1 Cor. 2:10-12; 1 John 2:2, 20, 27.]

I. The Truthfulness of Scripture

2 Sam. 7:28; Num. 23:19; Tit. 1:2; Heb. 6:18; 2 Pet. 1:19-21; Ps. 119:160; John 17:17; 2 Tim. 2:15

II. The Inerrancy of Scripture

Ps. 12:6-7; 119:86, 151, 160; Matt. 5:18; John 10:35

III. The Authority of Scripture

Deut. 8:1-3; 18:15-19; 1 Sam. 15:18-23; Matt. 4:1-4; 22:23-32; Mark 7:9-13

IV. The Sufficiency of Scripture

Ps. 19:7-9; 2 Tim. 3:16-17

Charles Spurgeon is often quoted as saying that "The Word of God is like a lion. You don't have to defend a lion. All you have to do is let the lion loose, and the lion will defend itself."

Note: On the danger of adding to or taking away from scripture, see also Deut. 4:1-2 and Rev. 22:18-19.