

Reformed Systematic Theology

Week Four – The Attributes of Holy Scripture, part 1

1. Introduction and Review

2. Eight Attributes of Holy Scripture
 - A. necessity
 - B. inspiration
 - C. infallibility
 - D. authority
 - E. self-authentication
 - F. sufficiency
 - G. perspicuity
 - H. finality

3. Necessity
 - A. WCF 1.1
 1. General revelation
 2. Specific revelation
 - a. insufficiency of general revelation
 - b. cessation of special revelation
 - B. Implications

To the degree that one believes that God still speaks directly to men and women today through prophets, etc, just to the same degree he is saying that he does not absolutely need the Bible for a word from God, and accordingly, he has abandoned the great Reformation principle of Sola Scriptura.

4. The Bible's Inspiration – WCF 1.2-3
 - A. The only rule of faith and obedience (life)
 - B. The Apocrypha
 1. Old Testament – Deut 18.14-29/13.1-3 God
 2. New Testament – Luke 24.44 Jesus Christ
 - C. Laws of Canon
 1. Apostolicity – given by an apostle?
 2. Antiquity – written during the apostolic age?
 3. Orthodoxy – doctrinally correct, esp. concerning Christ?
 4. Catholicity – universally accepted within the Church?
 5. Lection – was it being universally read?
 6. Inspiration – was it inspired?
 - D. Problems of Canon

1. How can one be certain without a direct statement from God?
2. How can one be certain that the NT does not include a book that should not have been included?
3. How can one be certain that the NT canon is even closed?

5. Biblical Infallibility – WCF 1.5/1.9

A. Definition – by infallibility we assert that the bible is true, that is, to say, devoid of and incapable of teaching falsehood or error of any kind in all that it intends to affirm. It is internally non-contradictory and doctrinally consistent

B. Objections

1. The Bible contains errors in history and science.
2. The Bible writers never claim inerrancy for themselves. Ps 58.3; 116.11 cp. Ps 19.7-9; 119.86
3. The doctrine of infallibility leads to bondage to a book and thus to spiritual bondage
4. Inerrancy is the apologetic ploy on the part of the evangelicals to justify their narrow theological stance

6. Conclusion and Application