

## To Glorify and Enjoy God

### LESSON THREE: THE SCRIPTURES ARE FOR GOD'S GLORY AND OUR DELIGHT

#### Intro:

BIG IDEA: God gave us the \_\_\_\_\_ so we could glorify & enjoy Him.

#### **WSC Q. 2: What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?**

**A:** The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

#### **God's Two Books**

1. Although the light of nature, and the works of creation and providence do so far manifest the goodness, wisdom, and power of God, as to leave men unexcusable; yet are they not sufficient to give that knowledge of God, and of his will, which is necessary unto salvation. Therefore it pleased the Lord, at sundry times, and in divers manners, to reveal himself, and to declare that his will unto his church; and afterwards, for the better preserving and propagating of the truth, and for the more sure establishment and comfort of the church against the corruption of the flesh, and the malice of Satan and of the world, to commit the same wholly unto writing: which makes the Holy Scripture to be most necessary; those former ways of God's revealing his will unto his people being now ceased. *WCF*, I

#### **WLC Q. 1** How does it appear that there is a God?

**A.** The very light of nature in man, and the works of God, declare plainly that there is a God; but his Word and Spirit only do sufficiently and effectually reveal him unto men for their salvation.

- Scriptures teach that \_\_\_\_\_ revelation gives us knowledge of God (Ps. 19; Rom. 1).
- The Book of \_\_\_\_\_ reveals God's goodness, wisdom & power in creation & providence.
- Nature is sufficient to \_\_\_\_\_ us, from the law written on \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 2:15).
- Nature is \_\_\_\_\_ to reveal the will of God, & the message of \_\_\_\_\_.
- God \_\_\_\_\_ Himself & His will to people at various times & ways (Heb. 1:1).
- He committed these revelations to \_\_\_\_\_ for their \_\_\_\_\_ & propagation.
- The Scriptures are for the better \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ of the church.
- We need Scripture due to the corruption of the \_\_\_\_\_, & the malice of \_\_\_\_\_ & the \_\_\_\_\_.
- With the \_\_\_\_\_ complete, God no longer reveals Himself in those \_\_\_\_\_ ways.

“Scripture is necessary for our comfort and strength.” **R.C. Sproul**<sup>11</sup>

#### **Question of Continuationism**

<sup>11</sup> Sproul, R.C. *Truths We Confess*. Philipsburg, P&R Publishing. 2006. Vol. 1, pp. 8

## To Glorify and Enjoy God

- This is a complex & controversial question. \_\_\_\_\_ vs. extra-ordinary circumstances.
- The Scriptures are sufficient for our \_\_\_\_\_; for glorifying and enjoying God.
- Any view of continuing revelation must reject the notion they are \_\_\_\_\_ for all.
- God may give us \_\_\_\_\_ in circumstances not \_\_\_\_\_ in Scripture. Not \_\_\_\_\_ on all.

“Though, in the infancy of the Church, God taught his people without the written Word, yet now that his former ways of revealing his will to his people have ceased, the Holy Scripture, or written Word, is most necessary.” **Robert Shaw**<sup>12</sup>

### How is the Word of God “contained in the Scriptures”?

- **Liberal Theology:** the Scriptures are \_\_\_\_\_ of the word of God and man.
- If a particular passage is God’s or man’s word is discerned by \_\_\_\_\_ judgment.
- **Neo-orthodoxy:** the Scriptures are the words of \_\_\_\_\_.
- When read, God speaks \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible, but the Bible is not itself the Word of God.
- The Bible, for Barth, is a \_\_\_\_\_ to the truth, not the \_\_\_\_\_ itself.
- **Reformed Theology:** God spoke it all (2 Tim. 3).
- We grant it \_\_\_\_\_ the words of other people in \_\_\_\_\_ passages.
- The history is \_\_\_\_\_; even if the person’s statement was sinful or \_\_\_\_\_.

“You don’t stare down the Pope of the Holy Roman Empire with a Neo-Orthodox view of Scripture.” **Al Mohler**<sup>13</sup>

### What Books are in the Bible?

- Roman Catholicism & Eastern Orthodoxy include the \_\_\_\_\_ as well.
- This reflects the debate over the \_\_\_\_\_ canon. 2 Tim. 3:16 refers to OT Scriptures.
- Alexandria was the cultural center for \_\_\_\_\_ Jews. They included the Apocrypha.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ canon, used by Jews in Israel, did not contain these intertestamental books.
- They can be \_\_\_\_\_, but not authoritative.

### The Inspiration & Authority of the Scriptures

<sup>12</sup> Shaw, pp. 6.

<sup>13</sup> Spoken at a General Assembly seminar in 2013.

## To Glorify and Enjoy God

4. The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed, and obeyed, depends not upon the testimony of any man, or church; but wholly upon God (who is truth itself) the author thereof: and therefore it is to be received, because it is the Word of God. *WCF, I*

- God \_\_\_\_\_ speaks truthfully, & the Scriptures are God-\_\_\_\_\_ (2 Tim. 3).
- God necessarily speaks with \_\_\_\_\_, so His word is to be believed & obeyed.
- Our \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ are supposed to rest on its authority.
- The Scriptures are not for our intellectual curiosity, but to be \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_.
- We glorify God when we \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_ as revealed in the Scripture.
- The Scriptures speak \_\_\_\_\_ about God so we can \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

“You can’t establish the supreme authority of your supreme authority by going to some other lesser authority.” **Kevin DeYoung**<sup>14</sup>

<sup>7</sup>Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, “Today, if you hear his voice, <sup>8</sup>do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, ... **Hebrews 3**

<sup>7</sup>again he appoints a certain day, “Today,” saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.” **Hebrews 4**

- We see the \_\_\_\_\_ authorship of Scripture, in Scripture!
- \_\_\_\_\_ wrote the Psalm, but the \_\_\_\_\_ says this thru David.

<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. **2 Timothy 3**

- We see here that it has authority precisely because God breathed, or spoke, it.
- It not only makes us “wise for salvation” (vs. 15) but for our \_\_\_\_\_.

“If the Lord God Almighty opens his mouth, there is no room for debate and no excuse for unbelief.” **R.C. Sproul**<sup>15</sup>

5. We may be moved and induced by the testimony of the church to an high and reverent esteem of the Holy Scripture. And the heavenliness of the matter, the efficacy of the doctrine, 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, the many other incomparable excellencies, and the entire perfection thereof, are arguments whereby it doth abundantly evidence itself to be the Word of God: yet notwithstanding, our full persuasion and

<sup>14</sup> DeYoung, Kevin. *Taking God at His Word*. Wheaton, Crossway. 2014, pp. 21

<sup>15</sup> Sproul, Vol. 1, pp. 12.

## To Glorify and Enjoy God

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. *WCF*, I

- The \_\_\_\_\_ testimony of the inspiration & authority of the Scriptures is \_\_\_\_\_.
- “The heavenliness of the matter”: the subject matter is quite different from \_\_\_\_\_.
- “*consent of all the parts*”: \_\_\_\_\_ of the message throughout Scripture. One Story.
- “*scope of the whole*”: the overall \_\_\_\_\_ which is the glory of God, not man.
- “*full discovery ... of man’s salvation*”: how God glorifies Himself for our \_\_\_\_\_.
- Scripture testifies to \_\_\_\_\_ as the Word of God (2 Tim. 3; Hebrews).
- The Spirit must work \_\_\_\_\_, by the testimony of the Word, to \_\_\_\_\_ us.

“They were concerned about two principles. One, which is at the very heart of Christianity, is the concept of divine revelation. Christianity is a revealed religion, constructed not on the basis of speculative philosophy, but in response to what God himself has made manifest. Second is the principle of sola Scriptura, established by the Reformers.” **R.C. Sproul**<sup>16</sup>

How does all this help us to “glorify and enjoy Him forever”?

### Conclusion:

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<sup>16</sup> Sproul, Vol. 1, pp. 5.