

**Chapter 1 –The Holy Scriptures**

**1. The Holy Scriptures**

are the only sufficient, certain, and Infallible standard of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience.<sup>1</sup> The light of nature and the works of creation and providence so clearly demonstrate the goodness, wisdom, and power of God that people are left without excuse; however, these demonstrations are not sufficient to give the knowledge of God and his will that is necessary for salvation.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, the Lord was pleased at different times and in various ways to reveal himself and to declare his will to his church.<sup>3</sup> To preserve and propagate the truth better and to establish and comfort the church with greater certainty against the corruption of the flesh and the malice of Satan and the world, the Lord put this revelation completely in writing. Therefore, the Holy Scriptures are absolutely necessary, because God’s former ways of revealing his will to his people have now ceased.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>2 Timothy 3:15–17; Isaiah 8:20; Luke 16:29, 31; Ephesians 2:20. <sup>2</sup>Romans 1:19–21; Romans 2:14, 15; Psalm 19:1–3. <sup>3</sup>Hebrews 1:1. <sup>4</sup>Proverbs 22:19–21; Romans 15:4; 2 Peter 1:19, 20.

**2. The Holy Scriptures,**

or the Word of God written, consist of all the books of the Old and New Testaments. These are:

**THE OLD TESTAMENT:**

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

**THE NEW TESTAMENT:**

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude, Revelation.

All of these are given by the inspiration of God to be the standard of faith and life.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup>2 Timothy 3:16.

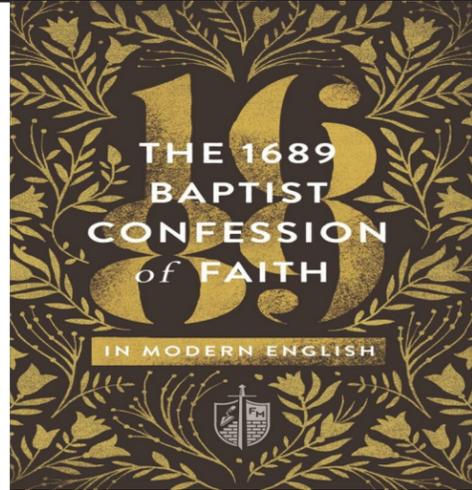
**3. The books commonly called the Apocrypha**

were not given by divine inspiration and so are not part of the canon or standard of the Scriptures. Therefore, they have no authority for the church of God and are not to be recognized or used in any way different from other human writings.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup>Luke 24:27, 44; Romans 3:2.

**4. The authority of the Holy Scriptures**

obligates belief in them. This authority does not depend on the testimony of any



person or church but on God the author alone, who is truth itself. Therefore, the Scriptures are to be received because they are the Word of God.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup>2 Peter 1:19–21; 2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 John 5:9.

**5. The testimony of the church of God**

may stir and persuade us to adopt a high and reverent respect for the Holy Scriptures. Moreover, the heavenliness of the contents, the power of the system of truth, the majesty of the style, the harmony of all the parts, the central focus on giving all glory to God, the full revelation of the only way of salvation, and many other incomparable qualities and complete perfections, all provide abundant evidence that the Scriptures are the Word of God. Even so, our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth and divine authority of the Scriptures comes from the internal work of the Holy Spirit bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup>John 16:13, 14; 1 Corinthians 2:10–12; 1 John 2:20, 27.

**6. The whole counsel of God**

concerning everything essential for his own glory and man’s salvation, faith, and life is either explicitly stated or by necessary inference contained in the Holy Scriptures. Nothing is ever to be added to the Scriptures, either by new revelation of the Spirit or by human traditions.<sup>9</sup> Nevertheless, we acknowledge that the inward illumination of the Spirit of God is necessary for a saving understanding of what is revealed in the Word.<sup>10</sup> We recognize that some circumstances concerning the worship of God and government of the church are common to human actions and organizations and are to be ordered by the light of nature and Christian wisdom, following the

general rules of the Word, which must always be observed.<sup>11</sup> <sup>9</sup>2 Timothy 3:15–17; Galatians 1:8, 9. <sup>10</sup>John 6:45; 1 Corinthians 2:9–12. <sup>11</sup>1 Corinthians 11:13, 14; 1 Corinthians 14:26, 40.

**7. Some things in Scripture**

are clearer than others, and some people understand the teachings more clearly than others.<sup>12</sup> However, the things that must be known, believed, and obeyed for salvation are so clearly set forth and explained in one part of Scripture or another that both the educated and uneducated may achieve a sufficient understanding of them by properly using ordinary measures.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>12</sup>2 Peter 3:16. <sup>13</sup>Psalm 19:7; Psalm 119:130.

**8. The Old Testament**

was written in Hebrew, the native language of the ancient people of God.<sup>14</sup> The New Testament was written in Greek, which at the time it was written was most widely known to the nations. These Testaments were inspired directly by God and by his unique care and providence were kept pure down through the ages. They are therefore true and authoritative<sup>a</sup>, so that in all religious controversies the church must make their ultimate appeal to them.<sup>15</sup> All God’s people have a right to and a claim on the Scriptures and are commanded in the fear of God to read<sup>16</sup> and search them.<sup>17</sup> Not all of God’s people know these original languages, so the Scriptures are to be translated into the common language of every nation to which they come.<sup>18</sup> In this way the Word of God may dwell richly in all, so that they may worship him in an acceptable manner and through patience and the comfort of the Scriptures may have hope.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>a</sup>authentic<sup>a</sup> <sup>14</sup>Romans 3:2. <sup>15</sup>Isaiah 8:20. <sup>16</sup>Acts 15:15. <sup>17</sup>John 5:39. <sup>18</sup>1 Corinthians 14:6, 9, 11, 12, 24, 28. <sup>19</sup>Colossians 3:16.

**9. The infallible rule**

for interpreting Scripture is the Scripture itself. Therefore, when there is a question about the true and full meaning<sup>b</sup> of any part of Scripture (and each passage has only one meaning, not many), it must be understood in light of other passages that speak more clearly.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>b</sup>sense <sup>20</sup>2 Peter 1:20, 21; Acts 15:15, 16.

**10. The supreme judge**

for deciding all religious controversies and for evaluating all decrees of councils, opinions of ancient writers, human teachings, and individual interpretations<sup>c</sup>, and in whose judgment we are to rest, is nothing but the Holy Scripture delivered by the Spirit. In this Scripture our faith finds its final word.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>c</sup>private spirits <sup>21</sup>Matthew 22:29, 31, 32; Ephesians 2:20; Acts 28:23.

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A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF FIRST BAPTIST MENA

**From The Pastor’s Desk**

FBC Church Family, Have you ever dealt with an identity crisis? It is a period of serious personal reflection that usually takes place during adolescence when we are developing perspectives about ourselves. We ask questions about who we are, what we will do, what we believe and what our purpose in life is. For Baptists, we have always known what we believe but circumstances in history have challenged those stances leading to an identity crisis of sorts. Baptists have a rich history as Christians following God’s Word while carrying out Christ’s commands and marching forward with the gospel as fervent missionaries with a burden for the lost to hear the good news. I have been blessed to be in a Baptist church as far back as nine months before I was born. There are committed Baptists all around the world with a heritage that goes back to the beginning when Christ started His church. It is an interesting task to consider what makes Baptists distinctive among other Christian denominations. With false accusations from the outside and heresies that found their way inside, it became necessary to define what we as Baptists believe about God’s Word and put it into print. Clearly expressing

Baptist doctrine became a major undertaking. This move brought Baptists to become a confessional people of faith. From this effort, many Baptist-aligned confessions of faith have been produced. Among the confessions produced, probably none is more influential than the *Second London Confession*, probably better known as *The 1689 Confession*. This confession was written by authors, pastors and leaders from solid, conservative Baptist churches who address the ‘judicious and impartial reader.’ The intent was to provide clarity for those who would consider it carefully. An earlier version was written in 1644 that proved to be very helpful. However, by 1689 the document needed updates. This led these godly men to undertake the task of revising and expanding the confession. It did not change the doctrine it held but offered greater clarity for these clearly Baptist doctrines. Some may deride this endeavor as unnecessary stating that all we need is the Bible. I would agree that the Bible is all-sufficient and all we need. However, while the Bible is claimed by every Christian denomination, it is used by every false religion and cult on the planet. Certainly, we need to understand the truth from God’s Word apart from what false teachers would proclaim. The confession is presented in a clear, concise and systematic manner that outlines Baptist doctrine

with corresponding Scripture for support and authenticity. It was originally released in 1677 and published anonymously, and it was based on the *Westminster Confession of Faith* along with the *Savoy Declaration*. Therefore, over the coming months we will feature a section from *The 1689 Confession* for us to review, consider and discuss as a church family while we reflect on what it means to be Baptists in the 21st century. Our journey will begin with a look at the Holy Scriptures, but the overall confession is very comprehensive and covers subjects like creation, justification, the gospel, marriage, final judgment and much more. I must make a note here; no confession rises to the place of God’s Word. It is manmade and therefore not infallible, inerrant or all-sufficient as the Bible is. However, it can be a helpful aid in understanding what we believe as Baptists. I look forward to contemplating these expositions of Scripture through a Baptist lens with you and hope to hear feedback on your thoughts about this ancient document penned by giants of the faith from Baptist history. I pray it will provide us with greater clarity on our background as Baptists and what we believe about God and His Holy Word. All to God’s glory,

*Bro. Jim Tennerly*

FBC Family,

How do you view the Word of God? How do you personally view God's Word?

The Lord has placed the highest value upon His Word. There are countless Scriptures that one can go to in order to see the eternal value of God's Word. I'm sure you will agree with everything in the Word of God, but how do you personally value it? It will do one little good to agree with truths found in God's Word, if it does not move you to Christ Jesus.

I want to encourage you to seek after Christ through the Word of God. Paul says this in 2 Timothy 3:16-17

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

In 2 Timothy, Paul is encouraging Timothy to persevere in his ministry amidst immense suffering, rejection, and witnessing many falling away from the truth. Of all things Paul could have said, this is how Paul encourages Timothy, for him to continue in what he has learned and firmly believed from the Scriptures, which made him wise for salvation.

Paul says all Scripture is breathed out by God. All Scripture is spoken out by God Himself, from Genesis to Revelation. It is profitable for teaching us the sound truths of who God is, who Christ Jesus is, and who we are in respect to Him. It is meant to reprove us, which means to bring our sins to the surface of our hearts.

God's Word is to correct us, and train us in righteousness. All of this, that we may be complete and equipped for every good work. Scripture is meant to complete us. That means we do not need some outside source to guide us to Christ and fellowship with Him. We simply need the plain truths of God's Word to complete us.

So, have the Scriptures made you wise for salvation? Paul will also say this about God's Word in Romans 10:17

*"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ."*  
- Romans 10:17

Saving faith comes from hearing and hearing through God's Word. No-one will ever come to a saving relationship with Christ apart from hearing God's Word. Yet Scripture in itself is not enough to give you salvation. You must still come to Christ Jesus who is the One the Scriptures speak of.

God has placed the highest value upon His Word. The New Testament writers placed the highest value upon His Word, but how do you value it? Go to God's Word day after day and see the purposes of His Word. That we may learn that we can have fellowship with God the Father and Jesus Christ. That we have a clearer view of who God is, who Jesus is, and who the Holy Spirit is.

That we may see our need for Christ Jesus, turn away from our sin, and turn to Him!

-Jeremy Martinez

**lead defend**

March 7, 2026

Missions Meeting

Please join us for our missions meeting!  
This is for anyone interested in missions!

Wednesday  
March 4th, 2026 @ 7p.m  
Meet in conference room

**HELP!**

We Need Volunteers to drive, or just ride along on the Van on Sunday Mornings

Please Call the Office if you're willing to help!

Help Prepare the Camp for the summer season!

**OBA CAMPGROUND**  
A CAMPING MINISTRY

Camp Work Days  
March 7<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> & April 18<sup>th</sup>  
Start @9am  
We feed you lunch

www.FiveDayBibleReading.com  
2026 Edition

**Week Ten:** March 1-7

- Day 1: Numbers 8-11; Colossians 1
- Day 2: Numbers 12-14; Psalm 28; Colossians 2
- Day 3: Numbers 15-18; Psalm 113; Col. 3
- Day 4: Numbers 19-21; Colossians 4
- Day 5: Numbers 22-25; Luke 1

**Week Eleven:** March 8-14

- Day 1: Numbers 26-29; Luke 2
- Day 2: Numbers 30-33; Psalm 35; Luke 3
- Day 3: Numbers 34-36; Luke 4
- Day 4: Deuteronomy 1-3; Psalm 36; Luke 5
- Day 5: Deuteronomy 4-5; Luke 6

**Week Twelve:** March 15-21

- Day 1: Deuteronomy 6-9; Luke 7
- Day 2: Deuteronomy 10-14; Psalm 5; Luke 8
- Day 3: Deuteronomy 15-18; Psalm 115; Luke 9
- Day 4: Deuteronomy 19-22; Psalm 6; Luke 10
- Day 5: Deuteronomy 23-26; Luke 11

**Week Thirteen:** March 22-28

- Day 1: Deuteronomy 27-31; Luke 12
- Day 2: Deuteronomy 32-34; Psalm 13; Luke 13
- Day 3: Joshua 1-4; Psalm 143; Luke 14
- Day 4: Joshua 5-8; Psalm 14; Luke 15
- Day 5: Joshua 9-13; Luke 16

**Week Fourteen:** March 29- April 4

- Day 1: Joshua 14-17; Luke 17
- Day 2: Joshua 18-21; Psalm 15; Luke 18
- Day 3: Joshua 22-24; Psalm 116; Luke 19
- Day 4: Judges 1-3; Psalm 16; Luke 20
- Day 5: Judges 4-6; Luke 21

Psalm 150 is one of my favorite Psalms. It reads in part:

*Praise God in his Temple;  
praise Him in His mighty heaven.  
Praise Him for His strength; praise Him for His greatness.  
Praise Him with the trumpet blasts:  
praise him with harps and lyres.  
Praise Him with tambourines and dancing;  
praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes.  
Praise Him with loud cymbals;  
praise Him with crashing cymbals.*

We are prone to grow comfortable with a certain style of worship in our church services. It's usually the style of worship with which we grew up, if we were raised in church. That's the way it is with me. I grew up singing hymns accompanied by a piano and organ. Younger generations have grown up singing praise songs accompanied by guitars, keyboard, and drums. These days, it is difficult to find a church that still sings the traditional hymns with piano and organ. We have, in the past few years, added other instruments in our worship services.

For a time, we had flutes, clarinets, and trumpets. Then we added guitars, and, occasionally, drums with cymbals. That mix sounds a lot like what is described in the Psalms passage. My point is that the instruments we use in worship are not of much significance as long as the message of the songs sung are theologically and scripturally sound. If songs do not convey a true gospel message, then such songs should not be sung.

I appreciated the music in the licensing service last Sunday evening. The songs were more in the contemporary style, but with a biblical message. There was one traditional hymn, "Blessed Assurance," played in a bit of a different style from what some in the congregation are accustomed, but done beautifully. The whole service was a wonderful time of praise and worship. Thank you, Andy and Caleb, for allowing the Holy Spirit to minister to us through your leadership in the service. We look forward to your continued ministry in our congregation. Each of us should use the talents, abilities, and spiritual gifts God has given us to bring praise to Him.

*"Let everything that breathes praise the Lord"*  
Psalm 150:6, (New Century Version).

Blessed to serve,



Bro. Vernon