

Belgic Confession, Article 3, “About the Holy Scripture”

Scripture Lesson: 2 Timothy 3:1 – 4:8

Lesson Aim	To understand three things: First, the need for the Holy Scriptures; second, the history of God’s spoken word and its written form; and third, the written Word today.
Steps to Learning	Read Belgic Confession, Article 3 and 2 Timothy 3:1-4:8 . Discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may work best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
What to Understand	A summary of article 3: The Scriptures (the Bible) were written by people inspired by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the Scriptures are considered to be the very Word of God. The Scriptures were written for our salvation.
Discuss	<p>What are some Scriptures that teach us that the Scriptures themselves have been inspired by the Holy Spirit? 2 Peter 1:19-21, 2 Timothy 3:16.</p> <p>What does it mean that the Scriptures have been inspired by the Holy Spirit? “Inspiration is the supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit on selected individuals which rendered them the instruments of God for the infallible communication of His mind and will.”</p> <p>We confess that our type of inspiration is verbal and plenary. What does that mean? It means that every word of the Bible was inspired by the Holy Spirit (verbal) and that the whole Bible is the Word of God (plenary).</p> <p>Why is it important to understand that the Scriptures have been inspired by the Holy Spirit? We can believe and have confidence in the Scriptures as the very Word of God. This will help us not to trust in other forms of revelation (like personal impression, feelings or thoughts) as ways that God communicates to us.</p> <p>What is the primary way in which we receive and understand the Scriptures? Through the preaching of the Word on Sundays.</p>
Bible Reading	Genesis 11:1-9 [The Tower of Babel] (covering the great Bible stories)