

## THE WORD OF GOD

A Brief Confession of faith  
and doctrinal exposition  
on the doctrine of the Word

**WE BELIEVE, TEACH, AND CONFESS** that the Prophetic and Apostolic Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired and inerrant Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice according to which all doctrines and teachers alike must be appraised and judged.

1. The Prophetic Scriptures are the Old Testament writings of Moses and the Prophets. Jesus referred to the Old Testament as "The Law and the Prophets" or "the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms." The writings of Moses are foundational to the Old Testament. They are called the "Torah" or "Law" - which includes both "law" and "gospel" or "curse" and "blessing" - and the "Pentateuch" or "five-books." The other Prophets, which include the other historical narratives and poetical books, are expositions of "the Law of Moses". The Prophets were called by God and confirmed before the people as His spokesmen in the world. (Deuteronomy 18:14-22, Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Psalm 1, Psalm ~~X~~119, Psalm 33:6, Isaiah 55:10-11, Matthew 5:17; 7:12; 22:40, Luke 24:25-27)
2. The Apostolic Scriptures are the New Testament writings which were written either by an Apostle or under the authority of an Apostle. Jesus chose the Apostles to be taught by Him, to be the eye-witnesses of His death and resurrection, and to be sent out by Him to speak His Word in the world. They were His personal representatives and spoke on His behalf and with His authority in the world. Through the Apostolic Word Jesus speaks directly to His Church. (Hebrews 1:1-2, John 8:31-32, Jesus calls the Apostles: Matthew. 4:18-22, Mark 1:16-20, Luke 5:2-11, Acts 1:15-26, Matthew 10:1-20; Jesus instructed the Apostles about their future ministry: John 13 - 17, 1 John 1:1-4, 1 Thessalonians 2:13)
3. "Inspired" means "God-breathed", that is the "breath" or Spirit of God permeated the men who wrote the Scriptures, in order that their writings might be the authoritative revelation of God to men. Their vocabulary, personal style, the human characteristics of language, etc. were "sanctified" by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:16-21, 2 Timothy 3:14-17, 1 Thessalonians 2:13, John 17:17, John 10:35, Mark 8:38)
4. "Inerrant" or "infallible" means without error, that is the Scriptures contain no errors or contradictions, but that they are in all their parts and words the truth and completely reliable, also in those parts which treat of historical, geographical, and other secular matters. (2 Timothy 3:15-16, John 17:17, 2 Peter 1:12, 16-21, John 10:35b, Romans 3:2)
5. The Word of God - Holy Scripture - is above human reason and all other authorities. (1 Corinthians 1 and 2, 2 Corinthians 10:5, Romans 3:4, Colossians 2:8, 2 Peter 3:15-16, Acts 17:11)

**WE BELIEVE, TEACH, AND CONFESS** that all of Scripture is fulfilled in the person and work of Jesus Christ, the Son of God in human flesh who suffered and died for the sins of the world and rose from the dead the third day. The message of salvation - the forgiveness of sins - by grace alone through faith in Christ is the central teaching of Holy Scripture.

1. "Christ is on every page of Scripture" - Luther. He is the fulfillment of the law of God that sinners could not keep and the only source of forgiveness and mercy

through His death and resurrection. (Luke 24:25-27, 44-48, John 5:39, Acts 10:34, John 20:31, Eph. 2:20, John 1:18)

2. The Holy Spirit is at work through the preaching of the Word to bring sinners to faith in Christ and keep them in the faith. "The Law" condemns the sinner and exposes our sinfulness and need for salvation. "The Gospel" proclaims the forgiveness of sins by grace alone for Jesus sake. (2 Timothy 3:15, John 1:17, 2 Corinthians 3:6, Romans 3:20, John 6:63, Romans 1:16, Colossians 1:6, 1 Corinthians 12:3, Romans 10:17, John 17)

### CANONICAL SCRIPTURE

#### The Old Testament - 39 Books

Genesis	} <u>"The Torah"</u> or "Penteteuch"	MOSES
Exodus		
Leviticus		
Numbers		
Deuteronomy		
Joshua	} <u>Historical</u> Narratives from Conquest of Promised Land through the Exile of Israel and Judah	JOSHUA
Judges		
Ruth		SAMUEL
1 Samuel		
2 Samuel		
1 Kings		
2 Kings		
1 Chronicles		EZRA
2 Chronicles		
Ezra		
Nehemiah		
Esther		
Job	} <u>The</u> <u>Poetical</u> Books	DAVID
Psalms		SOLOMON
Proverbs		
Ecclesiastes		
Song of Solomon		
Isaiah	} <u>The</u> <u>Major</u> <u>Prophets</u>	ISAIAH
Jeremiah		JEREMIAH
Lamentations		
Ezekiel		EZEKIEL
Daniel		DANIEL
Hosea	} <u>The</u> <u>Minor</u> <u>Prophets</u>	HOSEA
Joel		JOEL
Amos		AMOS
Obadiah		OBADIAH
Jonah		JONAH
Micah		MICAH
Nahum		NAHUM
Habakkuk		HABAKKUK
Zephaniah		ZEPHANIAH
Haggai		HAGGAI
Zechariah		ZECHARIAH
Malachi		MALACHI

#### 27 Books - The New Testament

MATTHEW	} <u>The</u> <u>Gospels</u>	Matthew
MARK *		Mark
LUKE *		Luke
JOHN		John
LUKE	} Christ in the Church	Acts
PAUL		
} <u>Epistles</u> to the Church	} Romans 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians	
} <u>Pastoral</u> <u>Epistles</u>	} 1 Timothy 2 Timothy Titus Philemon Hebrews	
JAMES °	} <u>The</u> <u>Catholic</u> <u>Epistles</u>	James
PETER		1 Peter
		2 Peter
JOHN		1 John
		2 John
	} Jude	3 John
JUDE °		Jude
JOHN	<u>Apocalyptic</u>	Revelation

\* Evangelists, not Apostles

° Half-brothers of Jesus, granted Apostolic status by the Church.