

**Emmaus Essentials**  
**The London Baptist Confession of 1689**  
**Chapter 1 - Of the Holy Scriptures (Part 2)**  
**For Distribution the Week of 12/01/2013**

**Introduction**

**I. Paragraph 6 - The Perfection of Scripture (2nd Property of Scripture, after Authority)**

"The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for his own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down or necessarily contained in the Holy Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelation of the Spirit, or traditions of men.

Nevertheless, we acknowledge the inward illumination of the Spirit of God to be necessary for the saving understanding of such things as are revealed in the Word, and that there are some circumstances concerning the worship of God, and government of the church, common to human actions and societies, which are to be ordered by the light of nature and Christian prudence, according to the general rules of the Word, which are always to be observed."

A. Absolute Objective Completeness of Scripture, for the Purpose for Which it was Given

1. Everything we need for the life of faith is found in the scriptures; nothing is missing, it is all there.
2. Either expressly set down or necessarily contained.

B. Need of Spiritual Illumination for it's Full Use

C. Place for Christian Prudence and Right Reason

1. Circumstances about worship and the government of the church
  - a. What time should we gather for worship? How should we dress? How long should a sermon be? How old should someone be before they are full members of the church?

**II. Paragraph 7 - The Perspicuity of Scripture (Clarity)**

*"All things in Scripture are not alike plain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all; yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed and observed for salvation, are so clearly propounded and opened in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the learned, but the unlearned, in a due use of ordinary means, may attain to a sufficient understanding of them."*

A. Great Doctrine of the Reformation

1. Rejection of the doctrine that the church is the only true interpreter of the scriptures

B. Often Misunderstood

1. See Turretin 1:143
  - a. Not all passages are equally clear
  - b. Original languages
  - c. Teachers needed
  - d. But the gospel is clearly stated in the scriptures

2. Peter even says that Paul is difficult to understand

C. "Learned" and "Unlearned" Means Literate and Illiterate

1. Due use of ordinary means - if they come to church and hear the word preached.

### **III. Paragraph 8 - 10 - The Use of Scripture**

#### **A. Paragraph 8 - In relation to the scriptures form and transmission**

*"The Old Testament in Hebrew (which was the native language of the people of God of old), and the New Testament in Greek (which at the time of the writing of it was most generally known to the nations), being immediately inspired by God, and by his singular care and providence kept pure in all ages, are therefore authentic; so as in all controversies of religion, the church is finally to appeal to them.*

*But because these original tongues are not known to all the people of God, who have a right unto, and interest in the Scriptures, and are commanded in the fear of God to read and search them, therefore they are to be translated into the vulgar language of every nation unto which they come, that the Word of God dwelling plentifully in all, they may worship him in an acceptable manner, and through patience and comfort of the Scriptures may have hope."*

1. Primary Value and Authority of the Originals
  - a. The Immediate Inspiration of the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures
  - b. Their Providential Preservation in Purity
2. The Right, Duty, and Adequacy of Translations

#### **B. Paragraph 9 - In Relation to Interpretation**

*"The infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is the Scripture itself; and therefore when there is a question about the true and full sense of any Scripture (which is not manifold, but one), it must be searched by other places that speak more clearly."*

1. Scripture Alone the Infallible Interpreter of Scripture
  - a. The analogy of scripture
2. The Single Sense of Scripture
  - a. There is one body of doctrine in scripture - it teaches one thing

#### **C. Paragraph 10 - In Relation to Controversies**

*"The supreme judge, by which all controversies of religion are to be determined, and all decrees of councils, opinions of ancient writers, doctrines of men, and private spirits, are to be examined, and in whose sentence we are to rest, can be no other but the Holy Scripture delivered by the Spirit, into which Scripture so delivered, our faith is finally resolved."*

1. Scripture the Supreme Judge in Controversy
2. Scripture the Test of all Other Claims of Truth
  - a. Utter dependence upon the scripture and Holy Spirit