

Sabbath School

Topic: WCF 1.8 (2): The Pure Preservation of Scripture

Date: 4/26/20

WCF 1.8

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;**^[a] so as in all controversies of religion the Church is finally to appeal unto them.^[b] But because these original tongues are not known to all the people of God who have right unto, and interest in the Scriptures, and are commanded, in the fear of God, to read and search them,^[c] therefore they are to be translated into the vulgar language of every nation unto which they come,^[d] that the Word of God dwelling plentifully in all, they may worship him in an acceptable manner,^[e] and, through patience and comfort of the Scriptures, may have hope.^[f]

Scripture Proofs

[a]: Mt. 5.18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

[b]: Is. 8.20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them. **Jn. 5.39** Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. **Jn 5.46** For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me; for he wrote of me. **Acts 15.15** And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written,

[c]: Jn 5.39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

[d]: 1Cor. 14.6 Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine? **1Cor. 14.9** So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air. **1Cor. 14.11-12** Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me. Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church. **1Cor. 14.24** But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all; **1Cor. 14.27-28** If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

[e]: Col. 3.16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

[f]: Rom. 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.