

THE 1689 BAPTIST CONFESSION OF FAITH

CHAPTER 1

"OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES"

PARAGRAPHS 1 - 3: THE NECESSITY AND IDENTITY OF SCRIPTURE

WHY USE A CONFESSION?

- A confession is not the same as Scripture. It is not the final authority, nor infallible. So why have one?
- Does the professed belief in the authority of Scripture stop serious arguments?
- Most often, heretics or dissenters don't want to announce their differences. They want to be "included" with the orthodox, yet be allowed to disseminate their differing views.

REVELATION, ILLUMINATION, INSPIRATION

- Revelation: that act of God whereby He gives information to men that would be otherwise unknown, or only fallibly surmised.
- Illumination: that act of God whereby He works in men by His Spirit to allow men to grasp, understand, and believe revelation.
- Inspiration: that act of God's Spirit whereby He superintends the speaking or writing of what has been revealed so that it is infallibly & perfectly spoken and written exactly as God intends.