

**Scripture:** Matthew 4:1-11 Belgic Confession Art. 5-7 (1)

**Singing:** 225:1-3 – 21:1-4 – 179:1-4 – 428:2, 8

Intro: The question is valid: *Which books belong in the Bible?*

A. Our life depends upon the answer: Deut. 32:44-47; 4:2; Rev. 22:19

B. God determined and guided the process of what Books came in the Bible

1. He began the 'writing of His Word' (Ex. 31:18)

2. He used other writers to compose the Bible: Deut. 31:24; Joshua 24:26 etc.

3. He guided His sheep who heard His voice in the Scriptures: John 10:27

C. Then why do we find Art 6 in our confession of faith?

### **The Four Characteristics of the Holy Scriptures**

I. Authority: They contain the *will of God*

II. Clarity: They contain *clearly* what man ought to believe

III. Necessity *They only* contain what we need to know and believe

IV. Sufficiency They contain *all* God wants us to know to worship Him

#### I. THE AUTHORITY OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

A. Authority means the Bible is *God stating His will to us* (see art 5 & 7)

1. All what Bible says is "*Thus saith the LORD*" (Deut. 18:18)

a. consider Matt. 1:22; 4:4; 19:5

b. consider Acts 1:16, 2:16-17

2. Nowhere does Bible appeal to higher authority to establish its authority

B. The Bible contains '**the authoritative will of God**' for all mankind in all ages!

1. Prov. 30:5

2. John 17:17

3. Gal. 6:16; Phil. 3:16

4. 2 Peter 3:1-2 – 2 Thess 3:14

C. Implication of **the authority** of Scripture:

1. What does it mean to *disregard - disbelieve - disobey* the Holy Scripture?

2. Where will disregarding, disbelieving, and disobeying God's Word bring us?

a. meditate on Prov. 29:1; 2 Thess. 1:8-9; Heb. 12:25-29

Applications:

A. God's promise should encourage you: Prov. 1:22-23

1. God knows that without His Spirit you cannot see the truth of His Word

2. God knows you *feel* the truth of His Word (Heb. 4:12)

a. you feel uneasy when God's Word presses is

● on our unwillingness in God's sowing days: John 5:40

● on our coming judgment at God's harvest day: Acts 24:25

3. God knows you *cannot see His glory*: 1 Cor. 2:14

4. To encourage us, God promises His Spirit upon your obedience: Prov. 1:23

a. don't disregard, disbelieve or disobey His direction

b. instead strive (Greek: *agonize*) to enter in (Luke 13:24)

c. pray with expectation in faith in His promises like Ps. 81:10

*Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it*

d. come to His Word after wrestling in prayer like Ps. 85:8

*I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for HE will speak peace  
unto His people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to*

*folly*

e. persevere in the Word like 2 Peter 1:19

*We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do  
well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star  
arise in your hearts.*