

Scripture: Rev. 22:7-21

Belgic Confession art. 3 -7 (3)

Singing: 10:1-3 – 51:1-3 – 402:6 – 419:2-3

To ponder: *Why did God give us His Holy Word in our hand and language?*

A. Art. 5: *for the regulation, foundation and confirmation of our faith* (Jude 3)

1. About God Himself (John 1:18)

2. About ourselves (Romans 3:10-18)

3. About salvation (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)

B. Main purpose of His Word: **devotional worship of God** for His message!

1. Preaching/reading needs to go beyond *informational* to *devotional*

2. to 'worship God' is to respond appropriately to what He reveals of Himself

THE WRITTEN WORD OF GOD (3)

I. The source II. **The nature** III. The Authority IV. The Sufficiency

II. The nature of the Book

A. God's Word is ***a gradual*** revelation of God: Heb 1:1-2

B. God's Word came as ***progressive*** revelation: Ep. 3:3-5

1. God spoke 'at sundry times and in divers manners'

a. at different seasons He added more

b. He spoke in different ways to His creatures

2. God finished speaking (spoke out) in Gospel days of Jesus Christ: Heb. 1:2

a. Jesus Christ is God's fullest Word to mankind (John 14:9; Heb. 1:3)

C. God's Word is a ***united*** revelation: (Gen. 3:15; Luke 24:27, 44)

D. God's Word is a **completed** revelation: (see art. 4-6)

1. This is a crucial difference between *Reformed* & others (art. 4, 5, 6) (RCC,

a. Canon is Latin: *rule/standard Gal. 6:16*

b. Canons of Scripture: *God's standard for doctrine and life*

2. The Holy Bible's History (His-Story)

a. fruit of leading of Holy Spirit (art. 5)

- OT was completed and accepted as God's Word about 250 BC

- NT was recognized as fruit of leading of Spirit (art. 5-6):

*compare Paul's testimonies: 1 Thess. 1:6; 1 Thess. 2:13;
2 Thess. 2:15)*

3. For NT book to be *recognized* as inspired Scripture, it needed to pass:

a. apostolic authority test

b. Holy Spirit's universal testimony in His people test

c. the doctrinal consistency test

d. the moral value test

Closing:

A. A *complete* Bible means: *no new revelations as God's 'new truths'* (Is. 8:20)

B. A *holy* Bible means: Bible is God's instrument to make us holy (John 17: 17)