

Each week of 2019 we will take a brief look at one or two questions from the Westminster Shorter Catechism. Our aim is to help you become familiar with this introduction to Christian doctrine. The psalmist declares, "Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them" (111:2). Catechisms were designed to assist the people of God to delight in his works and study them more closely.

Q. 2. What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

A. *The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.*

Q. 3. What do the Scriptures principally teach?

A. *The Scriptures principally teach, what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.*

We can never get very far in defining and clarifying what we believe without establishing the source for our conclusions. What has the final authority to dictate what we should believe?

Orthodox Christians throughout the history of the church have turned to the Bible as their "only infallible rule of faith and practice." This brief phrase that officers in the Presbyterian church affirm in their vows summarizes questions 2 & 3 from the Shorter Catechism. Two truths are emphasized: 1. The Bible is the *only* infallible authority to direct our theology, and 2. The Bible teaches us what to believe and how to live.

The foundational passage undergirded this affirmation is 2 Timothy 3:15-17. The apostle Paul teaches us several things about the Bible... truths that should direct our esteem for God's word.

1. *The Scriptures are able to make us wise for salvation.* This is the core need of every human. We are sinners before an angry and just Creator. The Bible shares the story of how this just God is also a loving God and that he demonstrates his love for us, and satisfies his justice, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. *The Scriptures are inerrant because God breathed them out.* God is the source of the words of the Bible. Since God is trustworthy and true, his word is trustworthy and true.

3. *The Scriptures are sufficient to equip us for every good work.* All we need to know to glorify God is laid out in the Bible. If our chief end is to glorify God and the Bible tells us how, our chief study ought to be Scripture.