



WCF Prayer:

Chapter 1-

Of the Holy Scriptures

Eternal And Almighty God,

Thank you for the beauty of this world in which you have placed us. Thank you for its incredible majesty. We marvel at its complexity, yet consistency.

Your creation so clearly shows your goodness, wisdom, and power. We see this in nature, in ourselves and even in the repeated cycles of life and the other constants that surround us daily. We can see your ongoing providential care. With this spectacular vista, you have left us with no excuse, we need to worship you Creator and also Sustainer of this world.

Eternal God, we acknowledge that even with such clear revelation of your majesty and power, so clear though it is, it is insufficient. It does not speak to us of the way you have provided for salvation nor of how we should become sanctified.

We are in awe that though the Lord Almighty, and we small creatures, you delight to speak to us. You have not left us with only the incomplete witness of creation, but have revealed your will clearly to your Church in other special ways. Through the centuries, on many different occasions and in a variety of different clear ways, you have spoken to your people allowing them to know you and your Holy ways.

Lord, thank you that you gifted this world and your people **special revelation** in addition to the general revelation of creation and providence.

We are humbled and praise you Lord God.

Praise for Revelation in the Scriptures

Lord, what perfect wisdom that you chose a time when that varied way of speaking to your people would cease. What wisdom and grace, that you would send a final, decisive Word into the world: Your Son, Jesus Christ.

We bow in awe.

Praise you, eternal God, that at your free choosing, in space and time, you revealed yourself and your will through Jesus.

Yet we marvel at your wisdom, Lord, that you then put into writing your will and that clear testimony to Jesus, the Son of God, the Saviour.

You did this so that your truth might be better preserved and be shared across the generations and the geography of this planet. We praise you for the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments which continue to speak to us even today.

How wise you are, Lord God, that your people, when confronted with the corruption and sinfulness of human flesh, the evil purposes of Satan and the world, might be securely established and comforted by this written Word.

Lord, we delight in the knowledge that these Holy Scriptures speak to us clearly of all we need to know for salvation and sanctification.

We praise you that although *some* other human writings can assist us in living rightly, we know that we can have full confidence that only the **sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments** reveal your truth without error or fallibility.

Lord God, we receive these Scriptures with their complete authority over us, not because a person nor any church tells us to, but simply because they are your Word, The Word of God.

We praise you for the **complete perfection, clarity, and effectiveness** with which these sixty-six books reveal your will to us.

We are amazed at the majestic style and for the undeniable way the varied parts agree with one another and form a unity of theme. With eyes opened by your grace, we see from beginning to the end these Scriptures draw us to acknowledge you and give you glory.

Testimony of the Spirit

We are humbled when we read in the Scriptures of the many excellences of your grace to your Church. Yet, we confess that we are incapable of recognizing this testimony to your grace by our own mental faculties, emotional intellect, or spiritual capacity.

We admit before you that we are limited in this knowledge not only by our createdness, but also our sinfulness.

We acknowledge that although the Scriptures have a clarity that points us to their truthfulness, it is only by the **inward working of your Spirit**, that we can be completely persuaded and assured of their infallible truth and divine authority.

We praise you that it is God the Holy Spirit who testifies *by* this Word *to* this Word, in our hearts.

We know that it is your Spirit speaking through the Scriptures who becomes the supreme judge of all our arguments about religion.

We acknowledge that it is your Spirit speaking through the Scriptures who has authority to judge all decisions of church committees, all opinions of historical and contemporary writers, and our own private opinions.

We pray that we would humble ourselves by illumining of your Word and be satisfied with His judgment.

Light Of General Reasoning

We thank you, Lord God, that your will is revealed clearly in the Scriptures as illumed by your Spirit. And we know that all which is not explicitly stated can be deduced so that nothing is lacking in regard to salvation or sanctification.

We are convinced of this clarity and completeness and recognise the finality of the Scriptures so that no new revelations or traditions of mankind need, or should be added to their authoritative speaking.

We therefore pray for **biblical wisdom** on the parts of our life and worship that are not spoken of explicitly by your Word. We pray that with biblical wisdom we might conform all of life and worship to the general light given by your Word.

We marvel that on some matters of insignificance like the organising of worship or how Church might be governed, we can draw wisdom from other human organisations being steered by the general light of nature you provide.

However, Lord, please lead us to ensure that all is undertaken in accordance with the general rules of Your Word.

Scripture Explaining Scripture

Lord God, we confess that we do not find the meaning of all parts of the Scripture equally obvious. We pray that those parts we find less clear, you

would help us understand through the parts which are clearer on similar matters. And, we pray that by the help of your Spirit the educated and uneducated alike might rejoice in the reading and hearing of your Word.

Language of Scripture

We thank you that you have allowed your Word to be translated into so many local languages with sufficient accuracy, that not only can we understand that Word ourselves locally, but also trust it's reliability on matters of salvation and sanctification.

You are the God who graciously continues call a people into relationship with you. You speak and communicate in that relationship and delight to hear us respond in loving praise.

Thank you for the Gift of the Eternal Word, Jesus Christ, and the Scriptures which testify to Him and His Good News, the Gospel.

Praise You, Lord.

Scriptures from which the content of this Section of the Confession is drawn.

Rom 2:14-15; Rom 1:19-20; Ps 19:1-3; Rom 1:32 with Rom 2:1. 1 Cor 1:21; 1 Cor 2:13-14. Heb 1:1. Prov 22:19-21; Luke 1:3-4; Rom 15:4; Matt 4:4,7,10; Isa 8:19-20. 2 Tim 3:15; 2 Pet 1:19. Heb 1:1-2. Luke 16:29,31; Eph 2:20; Rev 22:18-19; 2 Tim 3:16. Luke 24:27,44; Rom 3:2; 2 Pet 1:21., 2 Pet 1:19,21; 2 Tim 3:16; 1 John 5:9; 1 Thess 2:13. 1 Tim 3:15. 1 John 2:20,27; John 16:13-14; 1 Cor 2:10-12; Isa 59:21. 2 Tim 3:15-17; Gal 1:8-9; 2 Thess 2:2. John 6:45; 1 Cor 2:9-12. 1 Cor 11:13-14; 1 Cor 14:26,40. 2 Pet 3:16. Ps 119:105,130. Matt 5:18. Isa 8:20; Acts 15:15; John 5:39,46. John 5:39. 1 Cor 14:6,9,11-12,24,27-28. Col 3:16. Rom 15:4. 2 Pet 1:20-21; Acts 15:15-16. Matt 22:29,31; Eph 2:20 with Acts 28:25.