

THE WESTMINSTER CONFSSION OF FAITH

CHAPTER 1 – OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

Section 1. Although the light of nature and the works of creation and providence do so far manifest the goodness, wisdom and power of God, as to leave men inexcusable;¹ yet they are not sufficient to give that knowledge of God and of His will which is necessary unto salvation.²

Therefore it pleased the Lord, at many times, and in different ways, to reveal Himself, and to declare His will unto His Church;³ and afterwards

- (1) for the better preserving and propagating of the truth
- (2) and for the more sure establishment and comfort of the Church against the corruption of the flesh, and the malice of Satan and of the world

to commit the same wholly unto writing;⁴ which makes the Holy Scripture to be most necessary;⁵ those former ways of God's revealing His will unto His people being now ceased.⁶

¹ Romans 1:18-25 (ESV). For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

Romans 2:14-15, 19-20 (ESV). For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them . . . and if you are sure that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of children, having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth.

Psalms 19:1-3 (ESV). The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.

Romans 1:32-2:1 (ESV). Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things.

² 1 Corinthians 1:21; 2:13-14 (ESV). For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe . . . And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

³ Hebrews 1:1 (ESV). Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets.

⁴ Proverbs 22:19-21 (ESV). That your trust may be in the LORD, I have made them known to you today, even to you. Have I not written for you thirty sayings of counsel and knowledge, to make you know what is right and true, that you may give a true answer to those who sent you?

Luke 1:3-4 (ESV). It seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

Romans 15:4 (ESV). For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Matthew 4:4, 7, 10 (ESV). But he answered, "It is written, "' Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God'" . . . Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the

**THE WESTMINSTER CONFSSION OF FAITH
CHAPTER 1 – OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE**

STUDY QUESTIONS FOR SECTION 1:

1. GENERAL REVELATION describes which of the following (*you may check more than one box*)?

- The reality of the existence of God and His Law written into the human conscience.*
- The reality of God and His Law given in Scripture*
- The reality of God's eternity, power and wisdom seen through the natural creation.*
- The military officer who wrote the last book of the Bible*

2. *TRUE OR FALSE.* All persons, at all times throughout history have had access to the reality of God's existence through General Revelation.

3. How does this Section of the WCF and attached scriptures end up answering the question, "What happens to those who have never even heard about God or Christ? How does God justly judge them when they don't have the Bible to know about Him?"

4. The General Revelation of God as shown through the creation is . . .

Sufficient to condemn us. *True False*

Not sufficient to save us. *True False*

test" . . . Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "' You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."

Isaiah 8:19-20 (ESV). And when they say to you, "Inquire of the mediums and the necromancers who chirp and mutter," should not a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living? To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn.

⁵ *2 Timothy 3:15 (ESV). And how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

2 Peter 1:19 (ESV). And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,

⁶ *Hebrews 1:1-2 (ESV). Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.*

THE WESTMINSTER CONFSSION OF FAITH
CHAPTER 1 – OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

5. If God's existence is made so completely clear through the natural world why is it that so many do not believe in Him [or believe in another god(s)] or come up with a view of God that is inconsistent with what He's really like?

6. SPECIAL REVELATION describes which of the following (*you may check more than one box*)?:

- Reveals God's plan of salvation.*
- What we learn about God and Christ for the natural world.*
- God's communication to the world written up as Scripture.*
- So we can all go around and introduce our most profound insights in life with the phrase, "God showed me . . ."*

7. TRUE FALSE . People are exposed to Special Revelation when someone communicates it to them or when they read it in Scripture.

8. Write out below the two reasons that the WCF provides as to why God has given us the Word (consult Section 1)?

Reason One: _____.

Reason Two: _____.

9. The phrase, "those former ways of God's revealing His will unto His people being now ceased," means which of the following for VCF (*check only one*)?:

- Now that we have Scripture, the Holy Spirit no longer communicates with us at all in any direct way.*
- The gifts of the Holy Spirit have ceased because their purpose was temporary while the Bible was being completed.*
- The Bible is complete, nothing else will be added to it and all that claims as being from God must submit to Scripture as the authoritative standard.*

PRACTICAL APPLICATION: List out three actions that you can implement to better learn and obey the Bible

1.

2.

3.

MEMORIZE THIS VERSE: *"All these things My hand has made, and so all these things came to be," declares the LORD. "But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word." Isaiah 66:2 (ESV).*

LOOK UP AND READ THESE VERSES: *Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1; Psalm 119; Colossians 3:16; 2 Timothy 2:15*

THE WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH
CHAPTER 1 – OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

HYMN: *HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION*

Author: attributed to John Keene, Kirkham and John Keither. First appeared in *A Selection of Hymns from the Best Authors*, by John Rippon (1787).

Sung at the death-bed or funeral of President Andrew Jackson, General Robert E. Lee, President Theodore Roosevelt, President Woodrow Wilson.

Sung on Christmas Eve, 1898 on the Quemados hills, near Havana, Cuba, by a whole corps of the United States Army, Northern and Southern.

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
You, who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.

THE WESTMINSTER CONFSSION OF FAITH
CHAPTER 1 – OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

Section 2. Under the name of Holy Scripture, or the Word of God written, are now contained all the books of the Old and New Testament, which are these:

Of the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I Samuel, II Samuel, I Kings, II Kings, I Chronicles, II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, The Song of Songs, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

Of the New Testament: The Gospels according to Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, The Acts of the Apostles, Paul's Epistles to the Romans, Corinthians I, Corinthians II, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Thessalonians I, Thessalonians II, To Timothy I, To Timothy II, To Titus, To Philemon, The Epistle to the Hebrews, The Epistle of James, The first and second Epistles of Peter, The first, second, and third Epistles of John, The Epistle of Jude, The Revelation of John.

All which are given by inspiration of God to be the rule of faith and life.⁷

Section 3. The books commonly called Apocrypha, not being of divine inspiration, are no part of the canon of the Scripture and therefore are of no authority in the Church of God, nor to be any otherwise approved or made use of, than other human writings.⁸

Section 4. The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed, and obeyed, depends not upon the testimony of any man or Church; but wholly upon God (who is truth itself) the Author thereof: and therefore it is to be received because it is the Word of God.⁹

⁷ Luke 16:29, 31 (ESV). *But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them' He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"*

Ephesians 2:20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone.

Revelation 22:18-19 (ESV). I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV). All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.

⁸ Luke 24:27, 44 (ESV). *And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."*

Romans 3:2 (ESV). Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God.

2 Peter 1:21 (ESV). For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

⁹ *2 Peter 1:19, 21 (ESV). And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV). All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.

1 John 5:9 (ESV). If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son.

THE WESTMINSTER CONFSSION OF FAITH
CHAPTER 1 – OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

Section 5. We may be moved and induced by the testimony of the Church to an high and reverent esteem of the Holy Scripture.¹⁰ And the heavenliness of the content, the effectiveness of the doctrine, the majesty of the style, the agreement of all the parts, the scope of the whole (which is, to give all glory to God), the full revealing it makes of the only way of man's salvation, the many other incomparable excellencies, and the entire perfection thereof, are arguments whereby it does abundantly evidence itself to be the Word of God: yet notwithstanding, our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth and divine authority thereof, is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts.¹¹

Section 6. The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men.¹²

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (ESV). And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

¹⁰ *1 Timothy 3:15 (ESV). If I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of truth.*

¹¹ *1 John 2:20, 27 (ESV). But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything- and is true and is no lie, just as it has taught you- abide in him.*

John 16:13-14 (ESV). When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

1 Corinthians 2:10-12 (ESV). These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

Isaiah 59:21 (ESV). "And as for me, this is my covenant with them," says the LORD: "My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children's offspring," says the LORD, "from this time forth and forevermore."

¹² *2 Timothy 3:15-17 (ESV). And how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.*

Galatians 1:8-9 (ESV). But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

2 Thessalonians 2:2 (ESV). Not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

THE WESTMINSTER CONFSSION OF FAITH
CHAPTER 1 – OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

Nevertheless, we acknowledge the inward illumination of the Spirit of God to be necessary for the saving understanding of such things as are revealed in the Word:¹³ and that there are some circumstances concerning the worship of God, and government of the Church, common to human actions and societies, which are to be ordered by the light of nature, and Christian prudence, according to the general rules of the Word, which are always to be observed.¹⁴

Section 7. All things in Scripture are not alike plain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all:¹⁵ yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed, and observed for salvation are so clearly propounded, and opened in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the learned, but the unlearned, in a due use of the ordinary means, may attain unto a sufficient understanding of them.¹⁶

Section 8. The Old Testament in Hebrew (which was the native language of the people of God of old), and the New Testament in Greek (which, at the time of the writing of it, was most generally known to the nations), being immediately inspired by God, and, by His singular care and providence, kept pure in all ages, are therefore authentical;¹⁷ so as, in all controversies of religion, the Church is finally to appeal unto them.¹⁸ But, because these original tongues are not known to all the people of

¹³ *John 6:45 (ESV). It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me."*

1 Corinthians 2:9-12 (ESV). But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him" - these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

¹⁴ *1 Corinthians 11:13-14 (ESV). Judge for yourselves: is it proper for a wife to pray to God with her head uncovered? Does not nature itself teach you that if a man wears long hair it is a disgrace for him.*

1 Corinthians 14:26, 40 (ESV). What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up But all things should be done decently and in order.

¹⁵ *2 Peter 3:16 (ESV). As he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.*

¹⁶ *Psalms 119:105, 130 (ESV). Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.*

¹⁷ *Matthew 5:18 (ESV). For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.*

¹⁸ *Isaiah 8:20 (ESV). To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn.*

Acts 15:15 (ESV). And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written.

John 5:39, 46 (ESV). You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me If you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me.

THE WESTMINSTER CONFSSION OF FAITH
CHAPTER 1 – OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

God, who have right unto, and interest in the Scriptures, and are commanded, in the fear of God, to read and search them.¹⁹ Therefore they are to be translated in to the vulgar language of every nation unto which they come,²⁰ that the Word of God dwelling plentifully in all, they may worship Him in an acceptable manner;²¹ and, through patience and comfort of the Scriptures, may have hope.²²

Section 9. The infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is the Scripture itself: and therefore, when there is a question about the true and full sense of any Scripture (which is not manifold, but one), it must be searched and known by other places that speak more clearly.²³

Section 10. The supreme judge by which all controversies of religion are to be determined, and all decrees of councils, opinions of ancient writers, doctrines of men, and private spirits, are to be examined, and in whose sentence we are to rest, can be no other but the Holy Spirit speaking in the Scripture.²⁴

¹⁹ *John 5:39 (ESV).* You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me.

²⁰ *1 Corinthians 14:6, 9, 11-12, 24, 27-28 (ESV).* Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? . . . So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air. . . but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me. So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God.

²¹ *Colossians 3:16 (ESV).* Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

²² *Romans 15:4 (ESV).* For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

²³ *2 Peter 1:20-21 (ESV).* Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Acts 15:15-16 (ESV). And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written, "After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it."

²⁴ *Matthew 22:29, 31 (ESV).* But Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God."

Ephesians 2:20 (ESV). Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,

Acts 28:25 (ESV). And disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made one statement: "The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet:

**THE WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH
CHAPTER 1 – OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE**

STUDY QUESTIONS FOR SECTIONS 2 - 10:

10. What is meant by the “inspiration” of Scripture at the end of Section 2:
- while humans were writing, God the Holy Spirit ensured that what they wrote was without error and was actually “the word of God” itself.
 - the writers of Scripture were directly taken over by God the Holy Spirit and their humanity and personality were bypassed so that what was written would be God’s very words.
11. The best way to summarize how books became part of the Word of God would be to say which of the following (Sections 4-5):
- The Church recognized by the Spirit what was already Scripture
 - The Church decided what was to become recognized as Scripture
12. According to Section 5, what must change in us before we can recognize the personal authority of Scripture over our lives?
- our opinion our nature our intelligence our behavior
13. When C. S. Lewis first read the Bible, he discovered something unique. He had been educated in England’s best colleges and he was a professor. Lewis had studied much of the greatest literature in Western civilization. He said, “I was trained in philosophy to take nothing for granted and to analyze critically the affirmations and assertions in every document. But I found when reading Scripture that in a very real sense I, rather than the text, was the object of criticism. The Bible was criticizing me more than I was able to criticize it.”
- Which section of the WCF would Lewis’ statement seem to best fit into:
- Section 2 Section 5 Section 10
14. What does it mean that not all of scripture is equally plain? What is plain according to the WCF (Section 7)?

15. Why, do you think, did the WCF authors place the section on Scripture first?

THE WESTMINSTER CONFSSION OF FAITH
CHAPTER 1 – OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

THE GREAT CONTRAST BETWEEN RELIANCE ON GOD AND RELIANCE ON MAN.

What of natural strategies that attempt to “prove” God apart from God? The problem with attempting to “prove” the Bible, or the existence of God, or any other spiritual or natural fact, apart from the principle of dependence on God presents the most serious problems.

You cannot successfully validate faith in God by unaided human reason apart from faith in God. You’ll find that the attempt is both a contradiction of reality and of Christianity.

For what is it that you are attempting to “prove” anyway? That God is all-sufficient and all-encompassing? That He is behind all facts, natural and spiritual? That He has spoken in His Word? That we are His creatures and owe Him the most profound and comprehensive trust and obedience? That reliance on Him is the only way we can come to learn of His reality and embrace His role in all things?

Do you see the problem then of adopting a strictly “evidential” approach? Does not this tact exalt human observation and reason as supreme arbitrators of truth and reality?

If we could actually “prove” God apart from real reliance on God then we would have proved that we don’t really need God (at least in this one situation.) We say that God is absolutely trustworthy and that faith in God and His description of things must have priority. Then we attempt to prove this is so by establishing God’s reliability and the viability of the Bible, not by trust in God, but by human powers of observation and reason. In that case we are inconsistent with the very thing we’re attempting to establish – that trust in God and His Word is an all-encompassing principle for belief and life.

Jesus clarified all – *“without Me you can do nothing.”* We must rely on God to establish any and every fact about Him and in His creation. *“He that comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a Rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”*

Hard factual evidence of God’s hand in creation and redemption cannot be cast in the role of ultimate “proof” then. It is relegated to the role of “agreement” with Divine revelation. The implication of 1 Corinthians 1 is that “by wisdom” the world can never come to know God or wisdom. The Lord has not left us that option.

For the most part, Modernism and Postmodernism do not accept the claims of Scripture to be God’s Word. They differ in how they go about trashing the integrity of Scripture. Postmodernism in particular regards beliefs and ethics as a product, not of a divine revelation, but of human thinking entirely. In other words, God did not create man; man created God (made up a description of a divine being that would explain the unexplainable).

Regarding morals, what people establish at one moment as ethical can be changed in the next moment. Yet a changing standard is no standard at all. If “man is the measure of all things,” then all bets are off. Relativism ascends. According to an atheistic postmodern outlook, we have no basis on which to argue that what Hitler and the Nazis did was a violation of any absolute moral standard (for according to Relativism, none exists).

Postmodernists might say, “We would prefer that such activities do not happen. We feel that we have a better sensibility about not killing people. We will use pass and enforce laws against such things.” But relativists cannot say, “Hitler was evil and did clear evil that violated a real and divinely inspired absolute standard.” In the end, all is a product of human preference at that particular time in history.

Reliance on God and on His Word are the ONLY alternative then to a reliance on self. How ironic that the middle verse of scripture makes this very point: *“It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man.”*

Psalms 118:8

THE WESTMINSTER CONFSSION OF FAITH
CHAPTER 1 – OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

MATCH THE WORLD VIEW AND THE DIAGRAM

A. *Christian World View*

B. *Modernist World View*

C. *Postmodernist World View*

