



God's Holy Word

Psalm 119:33-40 2 Timothy 3:14-17 Luke 11:27-28

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We believe, teach, and confess that
all Scripture is given by the inspiration of
God the Holy Spirit and that God is therefore the true Author of
every word of Scripture¹.

That is how we confess the doctrine of the *Inspiration of Scripture* as conservative Lutherans. We have a **very high view** of Holy Scripture; the Bible may use human language, but what is written is God's very own words. We even call the Bible “**the Word of God**.”

There are precious few church bodies that hold to this *high view* of Holy Scripture. Many churches claim to honor Scripture, but their teachings are contrary to Scripture². Ever since the Reformation days, with the rally cry of “*Scripture Alone*”, conservative Lutherans hold to the *Inspiration of Scripture*.

One of the things that this means is that Scripture is the **authority** in our Christian faith and life. Everything else is subordinate to Holy Scripture; there is nothing of equal rank. All theological writing, the

¹ “A Statement of Scriptural and Confessional Principles”, Part IV Holy Scripture, LCMS, 1973. The entire document is available online – just search for the title – or email me and I will send or print it to you. It is excellent theological writing that came out of the “Battle for the Bible” years of the LCMS in the early 1970’s.

² A few examples of widespread teachings NOT found in Scripture will suffice: denial of miracles, praying to Mary, double predestination, decision theology, continual revelation, gay pride, and speaking in tongues. [Remember that false teachings do not come out of the Bible, but from whatever other source a group claims is equal or greater authority to Scripture.]

Book of Concord³, the Small Catechism, the Hymnals, devotionals, and the writings of past leaders do not rise to the level of equal authority with Holy Scripture. Here is how we confess it to the world:

We also believe, teach, and confess that only “the Word of God shall establish articles of faith”, **AND THAT** “the prophetic and apostolic writings of the Old and New Testaments are the only rule and norm according to which all doctrines and teachers alike must be appraised and judged”

These are two quotes from the Book of Concord, the first from SA, II, ii, 15; and the second from FC, Ep, Rule and Norm

Scripture is the **authority** in our Christian faith and life. And in these Scriptures, the **MOST IMPORTANT** teaching -- both the Old Testament and the New Testament -- is *the gospel* of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word “Gospel” means “good news”; *it’s the good news about **Jesus***. Only the Holy Scriptures reveal to us God's love in His Son Jesus; a love that drove Him to send His Son to rescue us from our sin.

Because we were trapped under the weight of our sin, crushed by the commandments, burdened with guilt, with only death, dying and final condemnation ahead of us, ***God sent His Son to rescue us.***

The gospel is the good news that Jesus has delivered us from our sin and its punishments. Through His life and death, and resurrection on the Third Day, you were set free from sin. In Christ, your sins are forgiven, you are reconciled to the Father, and you will survive death and escape final judgment. Eternal salvation is found in the Lord Jesus

³ The Book of Concord is a collection of 9 documents out of the Reformation era that are the official teachings of the Lutheran Church, and the public witness we bear to the world as to the truth of Holy Scriptures. They are what we “confess” to the world. [Remember that “confession” is the idea of “echo”: what we learn in Scripture, we “confess/echo”. The Book of Concord is the official way that we do that as conservative and “confessional” Lutheran Churches.

Christ, and the Holy Scriptures are the only place where this is revealed to us. *The most important teaching of Holy Scripture is the Gospel good news about Jesus.*

The Holy Spirit works through this gospel to create faith in the Son of God. *It is only through faith that you receive the blessings of God.* You can never earn nor merit God's blessings; it is impossible for us to deserve these things from God. **IT IS ALL BY GRACE**, as a gift, because of God's love and mercy for you. *The Holy Spirit works through the Word of God to create and nurture faith within you.*

And a part of that faith,
is believing that the Holy Scriptures are the inspired Word of God
and the authority of our Christian faith and life.

There are *several practical implications* of that,
let me highlight a few for you.

1. We humble ourselves and let the **Law of God** work to *convict* us of sin and lead us to *repentance*.
2. We believe that the **Gospel** of the Lord Jesus Christ *forgives our sins* and comforts us with God's grace and mercy.
3. Our *assurance of eternal salvation* is based on God's Word and His promises in Christ, and **never** on our own thoughts or feelings.
4. God's Word teaches us what is truly *good and evil, right and wrong, truth and error*. We are **not deceived** by the world, nor by the lies of the devil and his demons, nor by the lusts of our own sinful nature. We know good and evil, right and wrong, truth and error from God's inspired and Holy Word.

5. We shape our lives around the **ethics, morals, and values** of God's Holy Word. The **Ten Commandments** are a guide for us to live our lives by. We understand that our lives are countercultural; and that we live and think differently than the world does.
6. We understand that the world rebels against God and His Word, and that **persecution** in varying degrees is a part of the Christian faith in life.
7. We learn from Scripture that reading, hearing, studying, and understanding Holy Scripture is a **lifelong pursuit** that pleases God and fortifies our faith.
8. We turn to the Word of God and the Promises of Christ for **comfort and strength in difficult times**; that the word of God is the solid rock we stand on in times of trials, pain, suffering, and temptation.
9. The precious Word of God motivates us to **share it with others**, so that they too can treasure Holy Scripture, believe it and live according to it.
10. We **support and encourage** missionaries, Bible translators, and all church workers in their vocations as they preach, teach, and counsel with God's Holy Word.

The inspiration of scripture is an article of faith. If you believe that Holy Scripture is the very Word of God, then that is the work of the Holy Spirit within you. If you do not believe holy scripture is the word of God, then you have rejected the Holy Spirit and are in the process of shipwrecking your faith.

As conservative Lutheran Christians,

**We believe, teach, and confess that
all Scripture is given by the inspiration of
God the Holy Spirit and that God is therefore
the true Author of every word of Scripture.**

May you have this faith!
Amen!

Holy Spirit,
we thank you for the Holy Scriptures,
which you breathed out through the
Prophets and Apostles.

Grant us faith to recognize your Holy Word,
to Believe and trust it, and to put it into
practice.

Use your Law to convict us of our sins,
and comfort us with the Gospel of the Lord
Jesus Christ. As Your people, sanctify us by
Your Word,
teaching us how to live as Your people.
We pray this to the glory of the Father,
and in the Name of the Son, Amen!

Psalm 119:33-40

Teach me, Lord, the way of your decrees,
that I may follow it to the end.

34 Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law
and obey it with all my heart.

35 Direct me in the path of your commands,
for there I find delight.

36 Turn my heart toward your statutes
and not toward selfish gain.

37 Turn my eyes away from worthless things;
preserve my life according to your word.

38 Fulfill your promise to your servant,
so that you may be feared.

39 Take away the disgrace I dread,
for your laws are good.

40 How I long for your precepts!
In your righteousness preserve my life.

2 Timothy 3:14-17

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom[a] you learned it 15 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. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God[b] may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Luke 11:27-28

As [Jesus] said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!” 28 But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

