

The Doctrine of Scripture (the Bible)

1. What is Scripture?

- Scripture is the God-breathed written Word of God:
Inspired (v16; 2Pe 1:19ff); inerrant (Jn 17:17; Eph 1:13; Col 1:5; 2Ti 2:15) & infallible (Is 55:10f; Ro 1:16; 1Pe 1:22ff)
- Scripture is God's written revelation to us: regarding Himself (Ex 3; Is 46; Jn 1), His will (Ps 1; 19; Ro 12-15; 15:4f), salvation history (Ac 2; 7; 13; Ro 9-11) & the gospel (Jn 20:30f; 2Ti 3:14ff; 1Pe 1:10ff)
- Scripture is God's living & sufficient Word:
it is its own interpreter & our ultimate authority
(vs14f; Heb 4:12; Ps 19; Dt 1-3; Ps 105; Mt 1-2; Ro 4:23f; Mt 7:24ff)
- Scripture is our spiritual food: and a light for our path
(Mt 4:4; Ps 119:105)

2. How was Scripture Written?

- Scripture was written by humans as God spoke through them:
initiating & inspiring what they wrote (Jer 1:1; Ezk 1:1; 2Pe 1:20)
- Scripture was written through the author's personal experience:
divine encounters included
(Ps 32; Jn 21:24ff; 2Pe 1:16ff; Is 6:1ff; Lk 1:26ff; 2Co 12; Rev 1)
- Scripture was written with truthfulness & historical accuracy:
and in spite of persecution (Lk 1:1-4; Mk 16; Ac 27; Jer 36; 2Ti 2:8f)
- Scripture was written by multiple authors over a long period of time:
and with a unifying message
(Lk 24:27; Ro 15:4-7; Is 52-53; Zec 9-14; Gal 3; Ro 9-11; Rev 22)

→ What should be considered Scripture? For OT: no disputes about what the OT Scriptures were in NT days. For Apocrypha: does not claim to be Scripture; sometimes contradicts it. For NT: written by apostle/associate, agrees w/ OT/gospel, accepted by early church?

→ Why don't we add to Scripture anymore? Two primary reasons Scripture was written or added to: 1) God did a new act in salvation history (e.g. promise to Abraham; anointed David king); 2) God gave new revelation. With the coming of Christ, God's revelation is complete & His final act of salvation history has begun (what is still to take place has been foretold & is connected to His 1st coming).

3. A Summary of Scripture (The Bible)

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises. (EFCA Statement of Faith #2)

4. How then shall "We" live?

- Feed upon Scripture in our daily devotions:
to know, love & follow Jesus (Col 3:16; Jn 8:31ff; Mt 7:24ff)
- Preach & teach the Word: & encourage one another with Scripture
(2Ti 4; 3:10ff; Rom 15:4-7; Ac 14:22; 20:1; Heb 10:25)
- Believe, trust & obey God's Word:
praying & singing the Scriptures until Jesus returns
(Col 1:9ff; Eph 1:15ff; 3:14ff; Ps 119:105; Col 3:16ff)