

## **Belgic Confession 7– I Believe God’s Word Meets Every Need**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Manuals are ever-changing. Everywhere you work you will see bulletins on changes to the way to fix a problem...or to do the job better. If you are a fireman, you would have learned that there are new techniques for fighting fires. If you are a pilot, you learn there are new chemicals to protect against ice on a plane’s wings. Those in construction learned many buildings historically used too much wood. Now they use less wood and make a stronger building.

But it is not so with the Word of God. The Word of God is the first, last, and only authority for what you believe (faith) and what you do (practice). The Word of God is your “ruler,” by which you measure things that are wrong or right. It is your manual that hasn’t changed for over 3,500 years. Today you hear again God speaking to you on this subject.

Our headings are:

**God’s Word is Sufficient and Clear**  
**Man’ Word is Insufficient and Confusing.**

Our goals are: **Learn that the Bible is sufficient for everything you believe and what you do**, and that you will then **share this loving rule of faith and practice with others so they too can reap all its benefit.**

*We believe that those Holy Scriptures **fully contain the will of God**, and that whatsoever man ought to believe unto salvation is sufficiently taught therein. For since the whole manner of worship which God requires of us is **written in them at large**, **it is unlawful for any one, though an apostle, to teach otherwise** than we are now taught in the Holy Scriptures: nay, though it were an angel from heaven, as the apostle Paul says. For since it is **forbidden to add unto or take away** anything from the Word of God, it does thereby evidently appear that the doctrine thereof is most perfect and complete in all respects.*

***Neither may we consider any writings of men, however holy these men may have been, of equal value with those divine Scriptures**, nor ought we to consider custom, or the great multitude, or antiquity, or succession of times and persons, or councils, decrees or statutes, as of equal value with the truth of God, since the truth is above all; **for all men are of themselves liars**, and more vain than vanity itself. Therefore we reject with all our hearts whatsoever does not agree with this infallible rule, as the apostles have taught us, saying, **Prove the spirits**, whether they are of God. Likewise: **If any one comes unto you, and brings not this teaching, receive him not into your house.***

我们相信圣经正典完全包括神的旨意，而且任何人应当相信圣经，而得救的要道都在其中充份地教导了 1。因为神所要求崇拜的完全形式都记载在圣经中，所以任何人，就是连使徒在内，若是其教导不是圣经所教导的，是不合法的 2，正如使徒保罗所说，就是天使也不可以 3。因为神的话不可以加添，也不可以减少 4，这就证明圣经中的道理在各方面是最完全的。也不可以把圣经与其他人的著作相提并论 5，认为有同等价值；更不可以把人的风俗，或广大群众，或古迹、时间与人的继承，或教会议会所作的决议、或法规认为与神的真理有同等价值 6。因为神的真理超于一切；人都是说谎的 7，比虚空还要虚空。因此，我们要完全拒绝与此无谬准则 8，就是使徒所教导我们不符的任何东西。使徒说，要试验诸灵，看是否来自神 9。照样，有什么人到你们这里来，不传这样的道理，不要接待他们到你们的家 10。

**God’s Word is Sufficient and Clear**

**1. The Bible contains the full will of God for man – not a fraction(部分， 片段)- but everything of**

## God's will.

2Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for **doctrine**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **instruction in righteousness**, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Apostle Paul taught specific things for which the Bible is sufficient.

**a. Doctrine.** This refers to all **truth** regarding man. The Bible teaches you everything you need to know about **how to be saved, why you need to be saved, and how to live after you are saved.** There are some people who argue that the Bible does not cover every area in which you need help, but the Bible is filled with principles for every conceivable area. This is just their excuse to push the Bible aside. Joyce Meyer, a TV preacher, said that *you've got to get some things by revelation, like she.* I believe this is heresy (异端) of the worse sort.

**b. Reproof.** This refers to **exposing bad teaching.** As long as you evaluate preaching from God's Word, you should not be afraid to expose bad teaching. Be charitable, knowing that you are sinful too, but don't be afraid to say what is bad teaching. You teach your children not to pick their nose in public...but teach them to speak up against false doctrines also! When the pastor told one of our members that it was okay to marry a non-believer if she couldn't find a Christian, I had to say: "You are wrong."

**c. Correction.** This refers to **exposing bad behavior** and fixing (straightening) what was bent – or twisted. I heard an elder say once: I have charges against you but I won't reveal my sources. That is not using the Bible rightly. Mt 18. Bad behavior must be identified in order to fix it. You might lose friends, but don't lose your obedience.

**d. Righteousness.** This refers to **things which lead to nurture and growth in your Christian walk.** Do you want to know if something is wrong or right? Not sure if a dress you want to wear is appropriate? Not sure if a video game you saw at a friend's house is appropriate? Not sure if it is okay to marry a particular person? Go to God's Word. The Lord saved you by his Son and will guide in your life.

Psalm 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

In other words, God's Word, believed and obeyed will make the man, woman, and child complete in their respective duties, duties as father, mother, elder, deacon, daughter, son, judge, or prime minister.

**2. There is one particular are where God's Words is clear and it threatens severe judgment if you ignore it: Worship.** But the "Anabaptists" 重洗派成员 (Pentecostals 灵恩派, etc.) claim that they do not really need the Scripture as long as they have the Holy Spirit. Yet, if you attend their worship, you'll see it is often disorganized, and reflect repetitive pagan (异教的) or insane worship. Women preach. Choirs sing for the people. You find noise, puppet shows (木偶表演), loud music, drama, dance, ribbons, and flags filling their worship. This kind of worship is entertainment based and man oriented. **The Holy Spirit does not want credit for this. True worship is guided by the Word of God alone.**

Exodus 25:9 "According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle (会幕) and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.

### **3. There are some who argue that they need new revelation(启示) or that the Bible is not sufficient!**

Pentecostals, for example. They are virtually saying: What I think the Holy Spirit is telling me is above what the Scriptures say. And since their final authority is not the Scriptures, but feelings of what they think the Holy Spirit is saying, this has led to many religious, political, and social problems. How? Authoritative truth is changed for what the people "say" the Holy Spirit said! The Pope (教皇) argues that the Bible is not sufficient, or plain wrong. The Pope says Mary was perfect and born perfect, yet the Bible says that all men were born in sin, and Mary herself pointed out her need for salvation. Lk 1:47-48. By saying the Bible is not sufficient or is incorrect, they call God a liar, and diminish the Bible's value. But you are warned not to teach anything else...to add or subtract from God's Word.

Galatians 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, **let him be accursed.** (go to hell)

Revelation 22:18 - For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will **add to him the plagues that are written in this book;** (我向一切听见这书上预言的作见证, 若有人在这预言上加添什么, 神必将写在这书上的灾祸加在他身上。)

**Worship is so precious to God that he gives much detail about it and he threatens eternal damnation in hell if one were to pollute worship.** The worst punishment in the Old Testament is reserved for those who corrupt worship.

**One man said to me: I want to do for God what my "gut tells me."** But God does not want you to go on your "gut feeling" because feelings have been corrupted by sin. Another preacher said I will not work under anyone – except when the Holy Spirit tells me. By doing this he rejects the Bible as the authoritative Word of God. God wants you to believe and live according to his authoritative Word he has given to you. God wants to relieve frustration in his children. What care! What comfort to you, God's children! What love!

### **4. The Bible is not only sufficient, it is also clear in everything needful for your salvation and growth in grace.**

2Timothy 3:14-15 But you must continue **in the things which you have learned** and been assured of...which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ...

### **5. Of course you will admit that you don't understand all things in the Bible (which is because of your sin, not because of God) but this is all the more reason you are to diligently study the Scriptures to learn.**

2Peter 3:15-16 ... Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as **they do also the rest of the Scriptures.** (...保罗, 照着所赐给他的智慧, 写了信给

你们；他一切的信上，也就是讲论这事；信中有些难明白的，那无学问不坚固的人强解，如强解别的经书一样，就自取沉沦。)

**6. If God's Word was not sufficient and clear, then you would not know how to be saved.** You would have no direction.

**John 5:39** "You search the Scriptures, **for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.**

### **Man's Word is insufficient and Confusing**

**1. Individual man's word is not authoritative and is not of equal value with the Bible.** Even though a man might be holy and his works helpful, his words are not authoritative. Not everything John Piper and RC Sproul have written is correct...even the godly John Calvin has written some things that are provably wrong. It doesn't matter how much you like an author, never consider his words as equal to the Bible. These are good warning for Mormons (摩门教徒) – Joseph Smith, SDA's Ellen G. White, and Jehovah's Witnesses (耶和华见证人) who hold to or treat Charles Russell writings as equal to the Holy Bible.

**2. Traditions are not sufficient.** Since traditions originate from man, they reflect the weaknesses and sin of man. Are there values to traditions? Yes. But you must make sure they are not treated as equal to the Bible.

This was particularly intended to speak against Roman Catholic practices of exalting traditions. But those from Indian, Chinese cultures, etc., should be careful as there are some bad ceremonies mixed in with traditions.

Furthermore, there are some traditions that are quite silly, like when some argue whether baptism should be done in the first or second worship, or what time of the day worship we must worship on Sundays. Those things are not authoritative.

**3. Successions of times and persons...like Popes and kings are not sufficient or equal to God's Word.**

These people claim a God-given right to rule and to make law, but this is false. The Pope is not the "Vicar (代理人) of Christ" as he claims to be. Kings do not have a divine right to pass on their authority to their children.

**4. Collective groups of religious men (councils – even Reformed councils) are not sufficient.** The Roman Catholics teach that the Bible is dark and only the church could explain it, so for more than a thousand years, the Roman Catholic banned members from reading the Bible. But the church does not control truth...only God's Word does. Councils are helpful when they rest on the Bible.

**5. Ancient writing and men are not authoritative; not because they are old they are better.** If you have trained your children well, you will see that they are becoming wiser than you at their age.

**6. Why is man's Word not sufficient and authoritative as the Bible?**

**1. Men are liars.**

Revelation 2:2 "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; (我知道你的行为、劳碌、忍耐，也知道你不能容忍恶人，你也曾试验那自称为使徒却不是使徒的，看出他们是假的来。)

2. Men promote themselves.

Philippians 2:21 For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus.

3. Men will reject that which their sinful hearts do not agree.

**Conclusion:**

**God's Word is sufficient**, and clear in all things necessary for your salvation in Christ, for your growth in grace, and for the fulfillment of your duties in the kingdom of God.

**Brothers and Sisters:**

**1. Love God's Word. Learn it. Believe it. Obey it. Gain the benefits from it. Tell God's Words to others.**

**2. You have a duty to reject those who bring false Words and try to pass those words off as authoritative words from God.** Don't invite them into your house and into your hearts. Yes, you can learn from good writers, just like you can learn from the Apocrypha (伪经), but put into perspective their value. **The writings of men tend to sneak up in importance.** Man's word can be more sympathetic to sin and more opposed to penalties for sin.

**3. But for you to be willing to do this, you need to make sure Christ is Lord of your life.** When he is, then you will want to believe and practice everything in his Word.

Finally, since God's Word is the only book that teaches you how to be saved from your sins, if you are not a Christian, know your duty: Read, learn, believe, and obey. Without the Bible you will go to hell.