

**An Exposition of the 2<sup>nd</sup> (1689) London Baptist Confession**  
**Chapter 1: Of the Holy Scriptures**

6. *The whole counsel of God concerning all things (i) necessary for his own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down or necessarily contained in the Holy Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelation of the Spirit, or traditions of men.*

*Nevertheless, we acknowledge the (k) inward illumination of the Spirit of God to be necessary for the saving understanding of such things as are revealed in the Word, 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 (l) ordered by the light of nature and Christian prudence, according to the general rules of the Word, which are always to be observed.*

i. 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Galatians 1:8-9

k. John 6:45; 1 Corinthians 2:9-12

l. 1 Corinthians 11:13-14; 14:26, 40

**1. The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary...is contained in the Holy Scripture.**

- a. The "whole counsel of God" is contained in the Holy Scripture (Acts 20:27; 2 Timothy 3:15-17).
- b. The whole counsel of God concerns what is necessary for God's own glory (Matthew 5:16 with 2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- c. The whole counsel of God concerns what is necessary for man's salvation (Ephesians 2:8-10 with Galatians 1:8-9).
- d. The whole counsel of God concerns what is necessary for man's faith and life (2 Peter 1:2-4 with 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

*Nothing is contained in Scripture concerning how to do plumbing,  
but everything is contained concerning how to be a faithful Christian plumber.*

**2. The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary...is either expressly set down or necessarily contained in the Holy Scripture.**

- a. Many things are "expressly set down" for us (Exodus 20:1-17; Ephesians 5:18; 1 Timothy 2:12, etc.).
- b. Many things are "necessarily contained" (Deuteronomy 6:4 with John 10:30 with Acts 5:3-4 = Trinity).

**2.1 Why was this written differently than the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Savoy Declaration?**

["The whole counsel of God...is either expressly set down in Scripture, or **by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture.**"]

- a. What are "good consequences" vs. "necessary consequences"?
- b. What pitfalls may the 2LBC authors have been seeking to avoid?
- c. What about the sacraments like baptism?
  - a. Moral Law vs. Positive Law.
  - b. "Instituted worship."

3. **Nothing at any time is to be added to the Holy Scripture.**
  - a. No new revelations of the Spirit are to be added (Hebrews 1:1-2).
  - b. No traditions of men are to be added (Mark 7:8; Colossians 2:8).

What does this say about the sufficiency of Scripture?

4. **The inward illumination of the Spirit is necessary.**
  - a. Illumination is the awakening or enlightening of the Holy Spirit.  
John 6:45; 1 Corinthians 2:9-12; cf. Ephesians
  - b. Illumination is necessary for a "saving understanding".  
Ephesians 4:17-18; 1 Corinthians 2:14
  - c. Illumination is necessary for the knowledge that produces righteousness.  
Ephesians 3:16
5. **Circumstances concerning the worship of God and the government of the church must be determined by biblically guided wisdom (1 Corinthians 11:13-14; 14:26, 40).**
  - a. These are to be ordered by the light of nature and Christian prudence.
  - b. These are to be ordered according to the general rules of the Word.