

## GW 101: The Bible—The Rule of Faith and Life

### Lesson 1.2

1. Why is Scripture necessary?

*Scripture is necessary because the light of nature and the works of creation and providence are not sufficient to give the knowledge of God and his will that is necessary for salvation.*

2. How many books have been inspired by God?

*66 books in total: 39 in the Old Testament, 27 in the New Testament.*

3. Why is Scripture authoritative?

*Scripture is authoritative because it was given by the inspiration of God, because God alone is the author and therefore it does not depend on the testimony of any person or church.*

4. What important occurrence does the Holy Spirit do in the hearts of believers regarding Scripture (see paragraph 5)?

*The Holy Spirit persuades believers that they can have full assurance of the infallible truth and divine authority of the Scriptures, the very words of God.*

5. What may be learned from Scripture?

*The whole counsel of God concerning everything essential for his own glory and man's salvation, faith, and life is either explicitly stated or by necessary inference contained in the Holy Scriptures*

6. In what two languages were the Bible written and why?

*The Old Testament was primarily written in Hebrew, the native language of the ancient people of God. The New Testament was written in Greek, because it was the most widely known language to the nations.*

7. What is the “infallible rule” for interpreting Scripture?

*The infallible rule for interpreting Scripture is the Scripture itself. When there is a question about the true and full meaning of any part of Scripture, it must be understood in light of other clearer passages on the subject.*

8. Why does the WCF refer to Scripture as “the supreme judge” (see paragraph 10) for deciding all religious controversies and human teachings?

*The Scriptures are the supreme judge for deciding all religious controversies and for evaluating all decrees of councils, opinions of ancient writers, human teachings, and individual interpretations, because Scripture is what was delivered by the Holy Spirit to the church. Because Scripture is inspired directly by God and it is God speaking, there can be no higher authority than the very words of God.*