

thing it teaches were false it would immediately fall of its own weight. Very often the reason cults and false movements thrive is because they have gained hold on some great Scriptural truth which Christians are neglecting. Often it is so mixed with error as to be useless, but some truth is there. In our opposition to falsehood we must not go to an extreme, and oppose elements of the truth.

This chapter nowhere says that the Apocrypha are bad books: it says that they are not inspired books. They are not to be used in any way different from other human books, There is much that is good in them, but they are not authoritative. In opposing Roman Catholic error the Confession does not go to the other extreme; it seeks instead to find exactly what the truth is.

The fourth section of the Confession says: "The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed and obeyed, dependeth not upon the testimony of any man or church, but wholly upon God, (who is truth itself,) the author thereof; and therefore it is to be received, because it is the word of God."

You would almost think this had been written quite recently, wouldn't you? How timely it is! You would think the framers of the Confession had picked up our newspapers, and seen big advertisements stating that the Bible is the Creation of the Church--alleging that for three hundred years there was no Bible, but that the church had brought the Bible into existence. How flatly the Confession denies such unhistorical claims! The Bible's authority does not come from any church, nor does it rest on the word of any man. It derives its authority wholly from God.

This is a very important section. It is dealing with one of the most central problems of our religion.

The fifth section continues the theme of the fourth. It is a wonderfully balanced section. Three-fourths of it is devoted to assuring us that reasonable arguments are valid as evidence of the fact that the Bible is God's Word. The last fourth of the section assures us that