

vealed to them, or what they had observed. Inspiration means that they were kept from error in their choice of words to express the ideas they wished to convey.

"To commit the same wholly unto writing."

The Confession says that God led the writers "to commit the same wholly unto writing". The word "wholly" requires examination. It does not mean that everything God ever revealed to the prophets was necessarily written in the Scripture. God led them to write such things as He desired to have preserved for the guidance of His people in future ages. It does ~~not~~ mean that everything which God wished ~~to~~ preserve as His revelation for His people was included in the Scripture. All the facts which God has revealed about that area of knowledge which is otherwise inaccessible to us are included in the Bible.

The Roman Catholic church claims to ~~have~~^{possess} tradition passed on by word of mouth, ~~which is~~ just as vital as the revelation contained in the Bible itself. This claim the Westminster Confession denies, by using this word, "wholly". It leaves no room for tradition. According to the Westminster Confession, nothing that has come down by word of mouth has any standing in the Christian Church.

Sections 2 and 3--What books are inspired?

Thus the first section of this first chapter of the Confession of Faith explains the vital principles and declares the importance of divine revelation and inspiration.

The second section of the chapter names the books which are included in the Bible. We need not read the names now, but it is very important that we know what they are. Everyone of the sixty-six books of our Protestant Bible is declared to be equally inspired.

It has been the view of the Christian church since its foundation that God's revelation is definitely limited in extent. These particular books reveal God's will for us. These are the books from which we get our knowledge of religious truth and we do not get it in any infallible