

Greek and Hebrew scholarship. Begin it with fervent prayer to the Spirit of God, of peace and love and of a sound mind, for light to interpret the holy oracles. Then, make a first careful induction of the sayings and significant doings of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's revelation, that is of the four gospels. Thereafter, do the same with the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles; and, finally, of whatsoever is accordant to those in the Old Testament, or may be added thereto from the Apocalypse. When this work is all done, then, but not before, consult the fathers and the scholastics, the reformers and later divines, confessions and catechisms, either to approve or to condemn their sayings. Let no man come to the assembly saying, I am a Calvinist or I am an Arminian, or go to work on the foundation of any *ism* whatsoever. It may take years to accomplish the work; it certainly will call for men of independent minds, and of godly lives, and of loving Christ-like hearts: but it will be a work worthy of the greatest Church in Christendom, exalting to its true place the sword of the Spirit, and, through Christ, bringing glory to the Father He revealed.

A single word in closing. The Church of Scotland was in existence eighty years before the existence of the Westminster Confession. It is, therefore, no voluntary association founded on that document, giving impertinent people a right to say "sign or leave." It is neither Christian nor manly for any upholder of the Confession, as in the United States and Britain, to charge with lack of Christian scholarship, with a foolish desire to do away with the systematic teaching of Divine Truth, with indefiniteness of religious conviction, or any defect in science, piety or motive, those to whom they find themselves opposed in this discussion. It needs strong conviction of truth, moral courage, and the fear of God, to assail the Augustinian ramparts, that have frowned down upon the Christian Church for ages: and if these words of mine can help such reformers in any way I shall be satisfied.

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