

# THEOLOGICAL QUARTERLY.

VOL. I.

JULY 1897.

No. 3.

## Doctrinal Theology.

### BIBLIOLOGY.

(Continued.)

The Author of the Bible is God; not man under God; not man and God; but simply God. The Old Testament Scriptures are "the oracles of *God*."<sup>1)</sup> What Moses said in the Pentateuch was "the word of *God*."<sup>2)</sup> The words of the Psalmist are words which "the *Holy Ghost* saith."<sup>3)</sup> By that which is written in Jeremiah, the Prophet, "the *Holy Ghost* is a witness to us."<sup>4)</sup> The things that Paul, the Apostle, writes to the Corinthians, "are the commandments of the *Lord*,"<sup>5)</sup> even as what Isaiah wrote was spoken *by* the prophet, but "*of* the *Lord*,"<sup>6)</sup> and *by* the mouth of His servant David, the *Lord God* said what we read in the Psalm.<sup>7)</sup> In short, every part of Scripture is the *word of God* and can not be broken;<sup>8)</sup> and "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God,"<sup>9)</sup> not certain parts of Scripture, of

1) Rom. 3, 2.

2) Mark 7, 10. 13.

3) Heb. 3, 7. coll. Ps. 95, 7. 8.

4) Heb. 10, 15. 16. Cf. Jer. 31, 33. f.

5) 1 Cor. 14, 37.

6) Matt. 1, 22: τὸ ῥηθὲν ὑπὸ κυρίου διὰ τοῦ προφήτου. Cf. Is. 7, 14.

7) Acts 4, 24 f. coll. Ps. 2, 1. 2.

8) John 10, 34. 35. coll. Ps. 82, 6.

9) 2 Tim. 3, 16.



- c, while they may perhaps be yet deficient in the knowledge of all the Lutheran Symbols, are familiar at least with the Unaltered Augsburg Confession and Luther's Small Catechism and declare their acceptance thereof;
- d, do not live in manifest works of the flesh (Gal. 5, 19—21), but lead Christian lives;
- e, together with the congregation partake of the Lord's Supper with due frequency, if they be of sufficient age;
- f, permit themselves to be fraternally admonished and corrected when they have erred, and
- g, are not members of any ungodly society.

## § 4.

It shall be the duty of every member of this congregation to contribute according to his ability toward the maintenance of church and school and in general to assist in bearing the burdens of the congregation.

## § 5.

It shall be the duty of such members of this congregation as have the parental care of unconfirmed children incumbent upon them, to commit such children to the parochial school of the congregation, or otherwise to provide for their proper training in pure Christian doctrine.

## § 6.

Only such male members of this congregation as have completed their twenty-first year and have signed this constitution shall be entitled to vote, and only such voting members as have completed their twenty-fifth year and have been members of the congregation for one year shall be eligible to an office in the congregation.

## § 7.

It shall be the duty of every voting member, if possible, to attend the meetings of the congregation, and by failing to attend a meeting, a member waives the right of casting his vote during such meeting. It shall, however, be the privilege of absent members either to vote by proxy or to send their ballots in writing whenever an officer of the congregation is to be elected.

## § 8.

When a meeting has been announced in public service on the previous Sunday, such meeting shall be capable of transacting business and passing valid resolutions if at least one third [fourth] of the voting members of the congregation are in attendance.

## § 9.

In matters of doctrine and conscience unanimity shall be required for a final decision; other matters shall be disposed of by the votes of a majority of the voting members present at a meeting properly convened.

## § 10.

The right of choosing and calling ministers and school-teachers and of electing all other officers of the congregation shall ever be vested in the congregation and shall never be delegated to an individual or to a minor body or circle within the congregation.

## § 11.

The pastoral office in this congregation shall be conferred upon such ministers or candidates only as profess their acceptance of and adherence to all the canonical books of the Old and the New Testaments as the inspired

word of God, and all the Symbols of the Evangelical Lutheran Church enumerated in § 2 as derived from such word of God, and pastors as well as school-teachers shall be pledged to faithful adherence to the word of God and the Symbols of the Lutheran Church by the call extended to and accepted by them.

§ 12.

In the public services of this congregation purely Lutheran hymns, and in all ministerial acts purely Lutheran forms only shall be used. Thus, also, in the parochial school, beside the holy Scriptures and Luther's Small Catechism, such books only as are purely Lutheran shall be introduced and used for instruction in Christian doctrine, and all other books used in the school shall be free from everything which is at variance with Lutheran doctrine.

§ 13.

The congregation as a body shall have the supreme power in the external and internal administration and management of its own ecclesiastical and congregational affairs. No decision, enactment or performance in behalf of the congregation or with reference to a member thereof as such shall be valid, whether it have proceeded from an individual or from a body within the congregation, unless it shall have been enacted or performed according to a general or special power conferred by the congregation; and whatever may have been ordered or decided by individuals or minor bodies within the congregation under a power conferred by the congregation, shall always be subject to revision and final decision by the congregation. But not even the congregation shall be empowered to order, enact or decide anything contrary to the word of God and the Symbols of the Lutheran Church, and any such ordinance, enactment or decision shall be null and void.

## § 14.

The churchwardens at any time in office shall have no authority beyond that which has been conferred upon them by the congregation, and whatever power may have been delegated to them, shall be at all times liable to change or rescission by the congregation.

## § 15.

[A paragraph on the election and powers of Trustees, where the law of the state requires such officers, and their number, official capacity, and mode of election, as determined by the statutes according to which this paragraph must then be framed, may be inserted here.]

## § 16.

All the officers of the congregation can, in Christian and lawful order, be removed from office. Sufficient and urgent causes for deposing a pastor or school-teacher are, persistent adherence to false doctrine, scandalous life, and wilful neglect of official duties.

## § 17.

When a member of this congregation, after fruitless admonition in the various grades prescribed by the word of God (Matt. 18, 15—20) where the observance of such grades has been possible, shall have been expelled from the congregation, such excommunicated person shall then have forfeited all rights of a member of this congregation and all claims upon the property of the congregation as such or upon any part thereof. The same shall also hold good with reference to such members as may have refused to submit to church discipline and thus excommunicated themselves, as also of those who may sever their connection with the congregation by removal to another place.

## § 18.

If at any time a separation should take place in this congregation on account of doctrine, the property of the congregation and all the benefits therewith connected shall remain with those members who shall continue to adhere to §§ 2 and 11 of this Constitution.

## § 19.

To alter or repeal any alterable or repealable paragraph of this Constitution, it shall be requisite that in two consecutive constitutional meetings of the congregation two thirds of all the voting members present cast their votes in favor of such alteration or repeal.

## § 20.

Of this Constitution, §§ 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, and 20, shall be unalterable and irrevocable.

**BY-LAWS.**

## § 1.

Admission to membership in this congregation shall be effected as follows:—

Persons desiring admission and coming with a letter of dismissal from some recognized orthodox congregation shall present such letter to the pastor to be submitted to the congregation at a subsequent meeting, and the congregation, having heard such letter, will at once act upon the application of the petitioner or petitioners thus recommended. Other applicants shall give notice of their intention to the pastor and one of the churchwardens and in an interview with the pastor give satisfactory evidence of their qualification for membership, whereupon the application with the testimony of the minister and the warden will be presented at a subsequent meeting of the congregation and acted upon. If in this meeting the admission of the applicant has been

resolved by a unanimous vote, and no protest has been entered and sustained at or before the following meeting, the applicant shall be permitted to sign the Constitution, and thus his membership under the Constitution shall be established.

§ 2.

The election of a pastor or school-teacher shall be performed in the following manner, viz:—

At a meeting of the congregation constitutionally qualified for the transaction of business, candidates shall be chosen by ballot, and the result of such balloting shall be publicly announced in two consecutive public services. If no protest is entered and sustained, the persons chosen by ballot and published in the manner aforesaid shall stand recognized as candidates by the entire congregation at the next meeting properly convened, at which meeting the definite election shall be performed by ballot, and the candidate obtaining a majority of all the votes cast shall be considered elected by the congregation. But when a candidate directly from one of our Seminaries shall be called, the Faculty of such Seminary may be requested to appoint the person to whom the call shall then be extended.

§ 3.

The congregation shall choose from its eligible members a Board of Churchwardens. This Board shall consist of three members, and one additional member for every 25 voting members of the congregation. The Pastor shall be *ex officio* a further member and the chairman of this Board. The Wardens, with the exception of the Pastor, shall be chosen in the manner prescribed for the election of pastors and school-teachers in the preceding paragraph, with the proviso that the election of a Warden shall be considered carried and complete without a subsequent second ballot, when the first ballot shall have given an eligible member a majority of all the votes cast.

## § 4.

The Board of Wardens shall be convened in regular meeting once during each calendar month and may hold such extra meetings as may be called by the chairman or a majority of its members.

## § 5.

The regular meetings of this congregation shall be . . .<sup>1)</sup> in number during each calendar year, to be held on the . . .<sup>2)</sup> Extra meetings may be called by the Board of Wardens.

## § 6.

After the opening prayer of every meeting the congregation shall choose a chairman from the Board of Wardens, who shall preside during that meeting, and in the subsequent meeting until the chairman for that meeting shall have been chosen. Only one person at a time, to whom it shall have been awarded by the chairman, shall be entitled to the floor. The following shall be the order of business for every<sup>u</sup> regular meeting, viz:—

- 1, Prayer.
- 2, Election of chairman.
- 3, Reading of minutes.
- 4, Admission of new members.
- 5, Reports of committees and action thereon, unless such action be postponed by a vote of the congregation.
- 6, Reports of treasurers.
- 7, Unfinished business.
- 8, New business.
- 9, Adjournment.
- 10, Prayer.—

---

1) Insert the number.

2) Insert the time.

All matters coming under the head of new business shall be placed before the congregation by a seconded motion, and it shall rest with the congregation to decide whether and in what order any matter shall be taken up for discussion and action.—All rulings of the chair shall, also, be subject to appeal to and decision by the congregation.—Whenever the votes shall be equally divided, the chairman shall cast the deciding vote.—

§ 7.

The congregation shall have a stated Secretary, elected by the congregation. The Secretary shall keep a record of the transactions of all meetings of the congregation and enter such records in a book provided for the purpose after their approval by the congregation. In the absence of the stated Secretary, or when it may be deemed expedient, the congregation shall appoint a Secretary *pro tempore* for one meeting or a part thereof.—

§ 8.

The congregation shall elect a general Treasurer, and such assistant treasurers as it may deem proper for the administration of special treasuries. All moneys and commercial papers of the congregation as such and not entrusted to assistant treasurers shall be kept and disbursed by the general Treasurer. Each Treasurer shall keep a written account of all amounts by him received and disbursed and enter such accounts in books which shall be and remain the property of the congregation. All these books together with the proper vouchers shall be revised at least once a year by a committee to be appointed by the congregation, and a report of such revision shall be submitted to the congregation at a regular meeting. During a serious illness of any treasurer of the congregation, the books and papers and other valuable articles in his keeping

and belonging to the congregation shall be taken into custody by any person whom the Board of Wardens may appoint for this purpose.

§ 9.

To alter or repeal any paragraph in these By-Laws it shall be requisite that in two consecutive constitutional meetings of the congregation two thirds of all the voting members present cast their votes in favor of such alteration or repeal.

---

## A FORM OF BAPTISM

to be used in the presence of such as are not of the Lutheran faith and cannot, therefore, be recognized as sponsors proper, but only as witnesses to the administration of the Sacrament.

### BAPTISM OF INFANTS.

We hear every day from the Word of God, perceive it, also, by our own experience in life and death, that we from Adam's fall are all conceived and born in sins, wherein we would necessarily be condemned and lost forever under the wrath of God, had we not been delivered therefrom by the only begotten Son of God, our dear Lord Jesus Christ.

This present child, also, is in its nature poisoned and polluted with the same sin as we, whence it also would necessarily be and remain subject to eternal death and damnation. But God, the Father of all grace and mercy, has promised and sent His Son Christ to the whole world, and, therefore, no less to little children than to the grown. Moreover, our Lord Jesus Christ has borne the sins of the whole world, and has redeemed and saved from sin, death, and damnation poor little children no less than the grown, and has commanded to bring them to Him, to be blessed. He also most graciously receives them, and promises them the kingdom of heaven.