**WEEK 3: Canon, Creeds, Confessions, and Theology**

**The Canon of Scripture**

* Canon = “rule, standard by which something is judged to be true or false.”
* Canon was not “formed” but “recognized.”
* Hebrew Bible well-established by 300 BC.
* Early Fathers quoted from all 27 NT books.
* 21 NT books recognized very early as inspired Scripture.
* Muratorian canon (AD 180) lists 22 books.
* Origen made a list of all 27 books in AD 250.
* Criteria for Recognizing Canon:

(1) Apostolicity

(2) Orthodoxy

(3) Catholicity

**Creeds**

* Apostle’s Creed (3rd cent)
* Nicene Creed (325 & 381)
* Athanasian Creed (5th cent)
* Chalcedon Definition (451)

**Confessions of Faith**

**Important Historic Confessions**

* Luther’s Large and Small Catechisms (1529).
* *Augsburg Confession* (1530) – Philip Melancthon.
* *Book of Concord* (1580) – Lutheran.
* *First and Second Helvetic Confessions* (1536-64) – Swiss Reformers. Calvinistic.
* *Thirty-Nine Articles* (1536-71) – Anglican.
* *Book of Common Prayer* (1549-1662) – Anglican.
* Three Forms of Unity – Dutch Reformed. (1) *Belgic Confession* (1561); (2) *Heidelberg Catechism* (1563); (3) *Canons of Dordt* (1619).
* *Westminster Standards* (1643-53) – English Reformed/ Presbyterian. (1) *Westminster Confession of Faith*; (2) *Larger and Shorter Catechisms*; (3) *Directory for Public Worship*.
* *Second London Baptist Confession* (1689) – Reformed Baptist.

**Historical Theology**

* Bible (Bibliology)
  + Authority, Sufficiency, Clarity – 1500-1575
  + Inerrancy – 1700-2000
* God (Theology Proper) – 300-700
* Creation – 1875-2000
* Salvation (Soteriology) – 1500-1650
* Church (Ecclesiology) – 1500-1750
  + Baptism – 1525-1650
  + Lord’s Supper 1525-75
* End Times (Eschatology)
  + Premillennialism – 100-300
  + Amillennialism – 300-500
  + Postmillennialism – 1750-1850
  + Covenant Theology – 1550-1650
  + Dispensational Theology (Premillennial) – 1800-1950
* Man-centered versus God-centered Theology:
  + Nature of Man (Anthropology)
  + Sin (Hamartiology)
  + Divine Sovereignty & Salvation (Soteriology)
  + Augustine vs. Pelagius – 375-430
  + Calvinism vs. Arminianism – 1500-1650
  + Calvinism vs. Wesleyanism – 1750-1850.