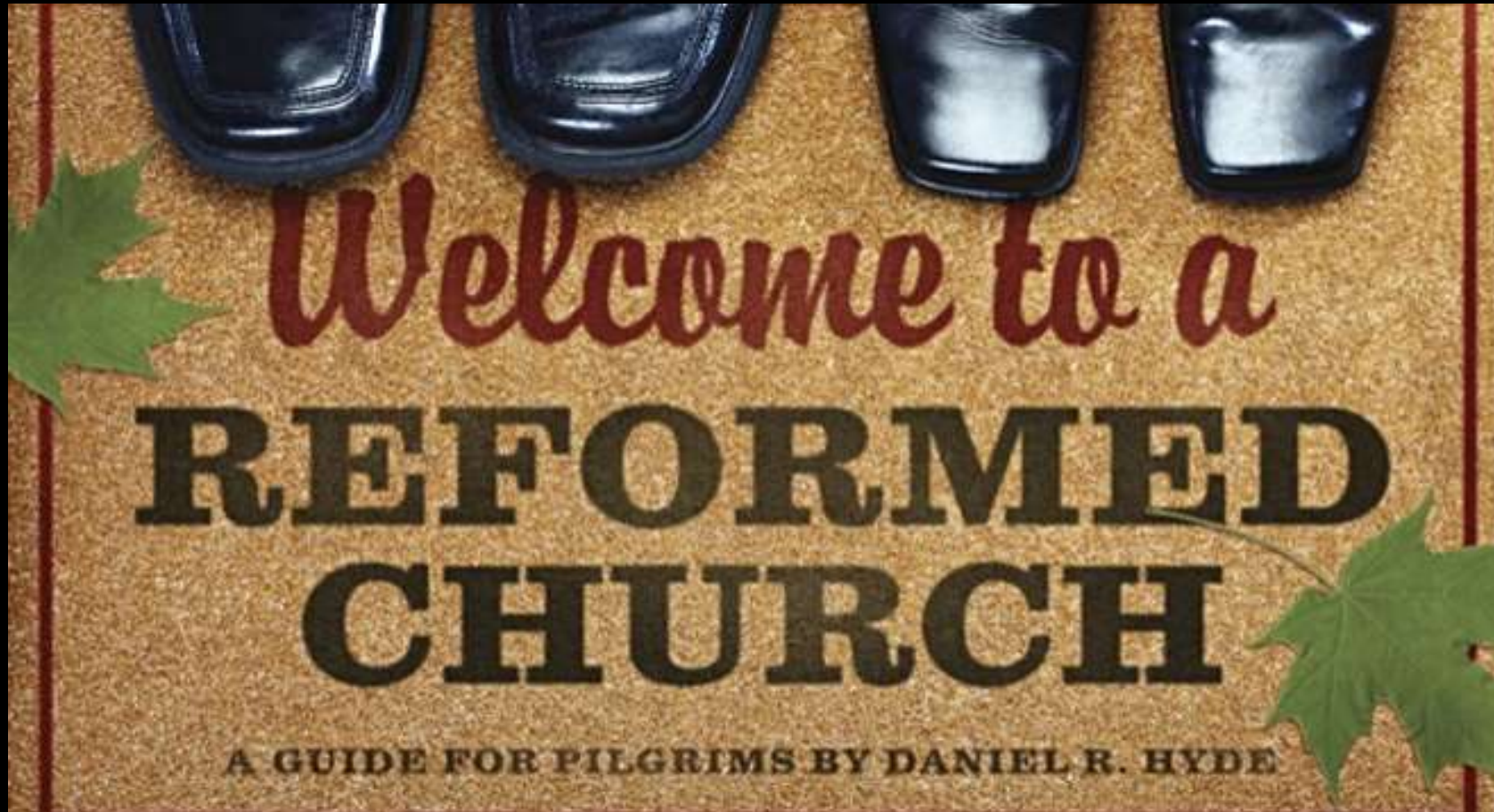
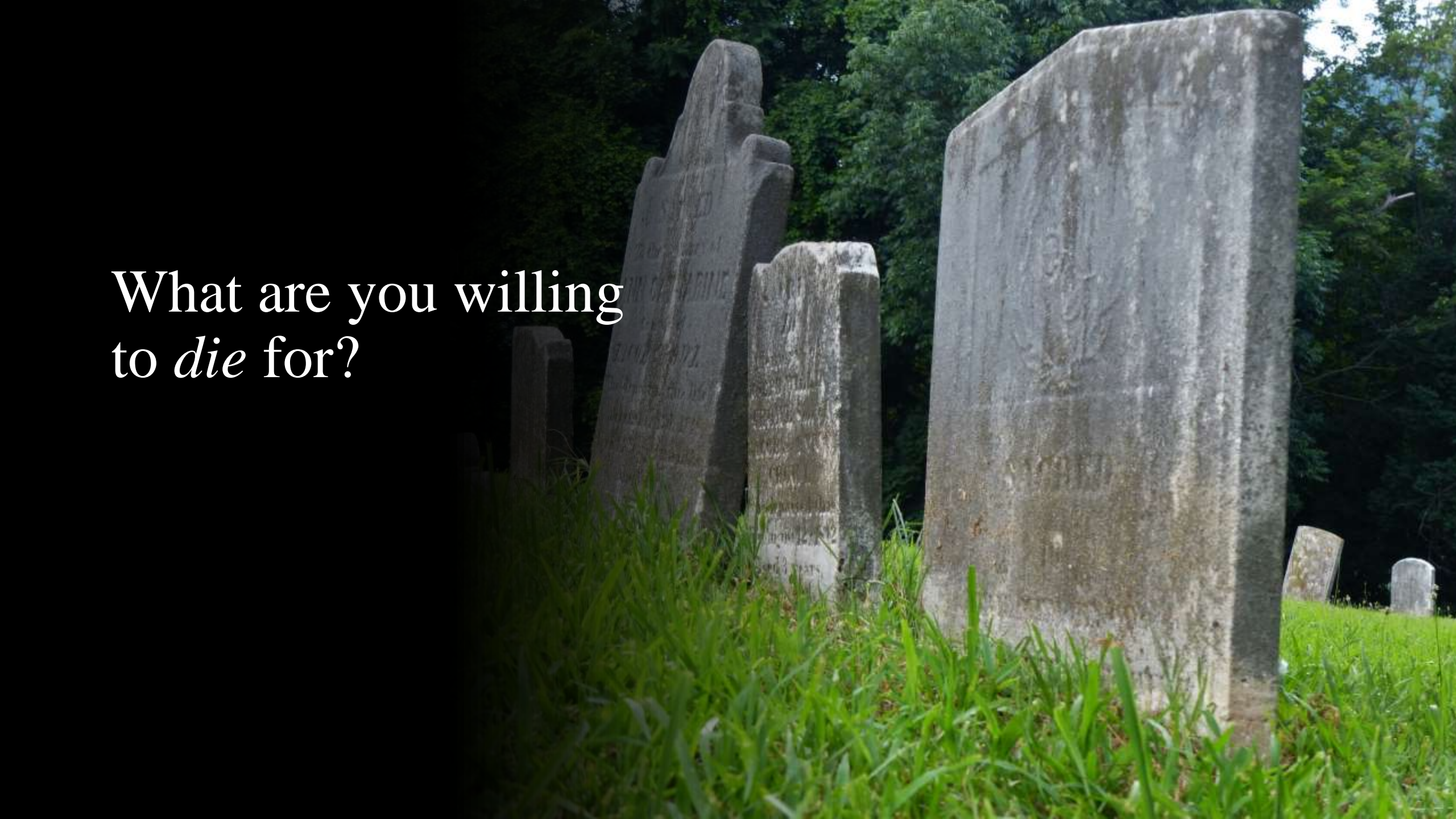


# Welcome to a Reformed Church

*A Guide For Pilgrims*

Ch. 3: Scripture: The Final Authority





What are you willing  
to *die* for?



JOHN HUSS

1369–1415

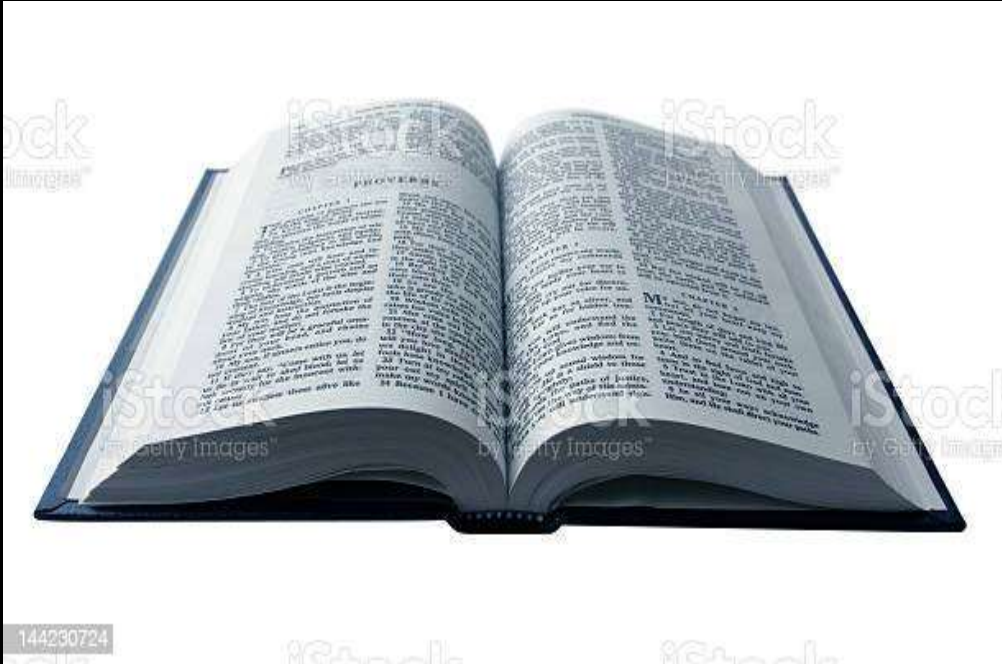


MARTIN LUTHER

1483-1546

# Chapter 3

## Scripture: The Final Authority



1. Sola Scriptura
2. Revelation of Scripture
3. Inspiration of Scripture
4. Canonicity of Scripture
5. Authority of Scripture
6. Sufficiency of Scripture
7. Perspicuity of Scripture

SOLA SCRIPTURA



ALL Scripture *ALONE*, not *PART* Scripture alone!

# REVELATION OF SCRIPTURE

## General Revelation

➤ God's revealing Himself to all mankind through His works and creation.

-Psalm 19:1-2

-Romans 1:19-20

## Special Revelation

➤ God's revealing the way of salvation to sinners.

-Hebrews 1:1-2

# INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE

Greek: Θεόπνευστος =  
theopneustos

English: *divinely inspired*

-2 Timothy 3:16

-2 Peter 1:21

-Acts 2:2

-Acts 27:15,17



# CANONICITY OF SCRIPTURE

- Canon = a rule or standard
- -Galatians 6:16

*What about the Apocrypha?*

Apocrypha were books that were not admitted into the list of canonical books until the Council of Trent at its 4<sup>th</sup> session in 1546, which placed them at the same level as the 66 books of the Bible.

Therefore, the Roman Catholic Church considered the apocryphal books of equal authority with Scripture.



Dr. Michael Kruger (RTS) has done extensive research into the formation of the canon

- *The OT books were grouped together rather quickly by the time of Jesus' birth.*
- *The NT books were largely agreed upon by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, though it took until the 4<sup>th</sup> century for the NT canon to be officially decided upon.*
- *The 66 books of the Bible were decided upon based on 3 criteria:*
  - *Their divine qualities*
  - *Reception by the churches*
  - *Connection to an apostle*

CHALLENGING THE STATUS QUO  
IN THE NEW TESTAMENT DEBATE

THE  
QUESTION  
OF  
CANON

MICHAEL J. KRUGER

# AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

*2 evidences which confirm the  
Authority of Scripture:*

1. The witness of the Holy Spirit is the chief evidence for the Word of God

“...the Holy Spirit is the true expositor of the Bible.” –Joel Beeke

2. The self-authenticating nature of Scripture is the second evidence

“In reading Scripture, we are lifted to heaven, convinced of its teaching, impressed by its style, led to see how it all fits together, brought to give glory to God, and directed to Christ, the way of salvation.” – D. Hyde

# SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE

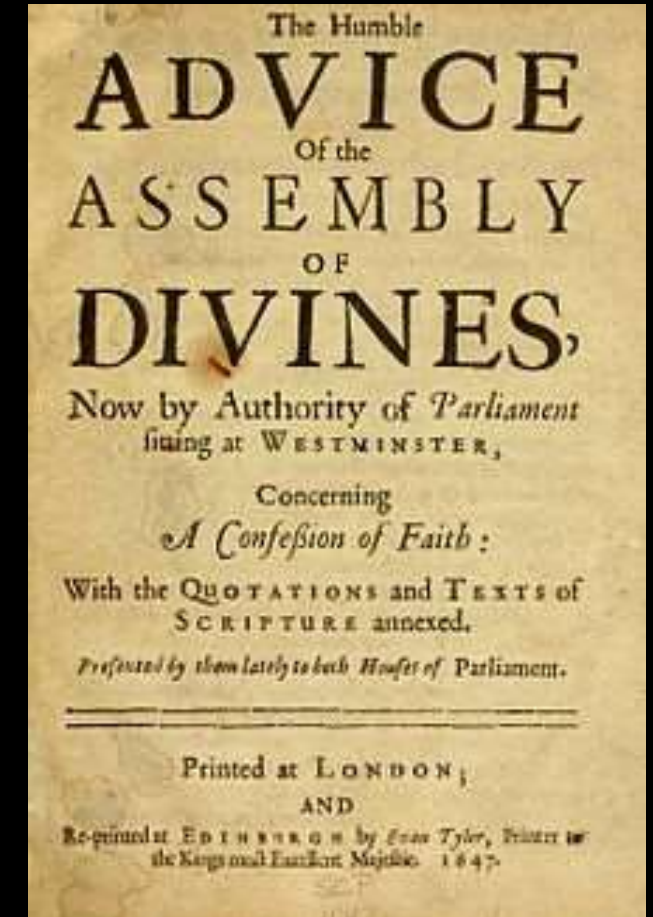
## The Belgic Confession

- *“We believe that those Holy Scriptures fully contain the will of God, and that whosoever man ought to believe unto salvation is sufficiently taught therein.” – The Belgic Confession*



# SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE

Westminster Assembly 1646: *“The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man’s salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture...”*



# PERSPICUITY OF SCRIPTURE

- *Perspicuitas* (Latin) means *clearness or clarity*
- WCF 1.7: “All things in Scripture are not alike plain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all; yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed, and observed, for salvation are so clearly propounded and opened in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the learned, but the unlearned, in a due use of the ordinary means, may attain unto a sufficient understanding of them.”



# CONCLUSION & APPLICATION

- *“...the grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God will stand forever.” -Isaiah 40:8*

