

God has revealed himself and his gospel fully and finally in the person of his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:14, 18; Hebrews 1:1–3). This revelation is preserved for us in the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments—the Bible (Luke 24:25–27, 46–47; Romans 1:1–2; 2 Peter 1:12–21; 1 John 1:1).

The Bible in its original autographs is a supernatural, verbal revelation, given by the plenary inspiration of the Holy Spirit. God is its author and it is therefore infallible, inerrant and authoritative (Exodus 20:1; 2 Samuel 23:1–2; 2 Kings 17:13; 2 Chronicles 34:21; 36:21; Nehemiah 9:30; Isaiah 8:20; Jeremiah 1:9; 36:1–2; Ezekiel 1:3; Zechariah 7:12; Malachi 4:4; Matthew 21:42; 22:31–32, 43; 26:54, 56; Mark 12:24, 36; Luke 1:70; 24:44; John 1:23; 5:39; 10:34–35; 14:26; 16:13; 19:36–37; 20:9; Acts 1:16; 3:18; 7:38; 13:34; 28:25; Romans 1:2; 3:2; 4:23; 9:17; 15:4; 1 Corinthians 2:12–13; 6:16; 9:10; 14:37; Galatians 1:11–12; 3:8, 16, 22; 4:30; 1 Thessalonians 1:5; 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:15–17; Hebrews 1:1–2; 3:7; 4:12; 9:8; 10:15; 2 Peter 1:18–21; 3:16; 1 John 4:6; Revelation 14:13; 22:19). By God’s singular care and providence, his word to us has been faithfully preserved through the centuries.

(Sola 5 Confession 2.1–2.2)

SAA buys 1.5 million bottle of Valpre water a year. The wholesale price of these bottles is R2.75 each. SAA, however, does not buy directly from the producer. It buys them from an empowerment company set up by ANC cadres and pays R17.50 per bottle!

This shocking bit of information started spreading across the Internet in early 2017. It was just another example of corruption in South African government, and South Africans were understandably up in arms. At least, those who didn’t bother to verify the claims were up in arms.

A bit of cursory research revealed that the claim (which was circulated on Twitter without citing any sources as proof) was completely bogus. That did not stop it from being circulated far and wide (it still pops up every now and again as if it is breaking news), but for anyone concerned to learn the truth behind the claims, it was further evidence that we should not believe everything we read.

We were taught from a young age not to believe everything we are told, yet in the day and age in which we live, that lessons seems to have been forgotten. With the rise of social media has come the near compulsion of many to be the first to spread news (particularly, though not exclusively, bad news), whether or not the spreader has taken the time to verify the information.

Sadly, while many unquestioningly believe and willingly spread fake news across social media channels, many of the same people consider the Bible—the very truth of God—to be a collection of fairytales. Many people in our culture think it very strange for normal, seemingly well-adjusted individuals to take the Bible seriously. The Confession is unapologetic, however: **God has revealed himself and his gospel fully and finally in the person of his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. This revelation is preserved for us in the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments—the Bible.**

The Confession hits on the two distinct things that the Bible calls the word (or Word) of God. What are those two things? _____

What does it mean that **God has revealed himself and his gospel fully and finally in the person of his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ?** _____

What is the significance of the terms **fully** and **finally** in the above affirmation? _____

The Confession further affirms that **this revelation is preserved for us in the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments—the Bible** and that, **by God’s singular care and providence, his word to us has been faithfully preserved through the centuries**. What do you understand about the doctrine of preservation? How does preservation differ from inspiration? _____

With all Protestant churches, the Sola 5 Confession affirms that God’s preserved word remains **in the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments**. Certain other Christian traditions add to these **sixty-six books** various other religious writings, which Protestants reject. Why do Protestant churches reject these other writings as inspired and preserved? _____

The Confession deliberately recognises **the Old and New Testaments** as the authoritative **Bible**. Are the two parts of the Bible equally authoritative? Equally beneficial? _____

Since **God is its author**, the Bible is **infallible, inerrant, and authoritative**. Do you understand, and can you explain, the meaning of these three terms?

Infallible: _____

Inerrant: _____

Authoritative: _____

If Scripture is **infallible, inerrant, and authoritative**, how should you approach seeming contradictions in the Bible? _____