

“The Summe of the whole Scripture” was included in many Geneva Bibles. The article summarizing the scope of Scripture was written by Theodore Beza, a supporter and successor of John Calvin. In this transcription, the spelling of the original has been retained.

The summe of the whole Scripture of the Books of the old and newe Testament

The books of the old Testament do teach us, that the same God, whom Adam, Noe, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, and the other fathers did worship is¹ the only true God, and that he the same is Almighty and² everlasting; who of his meer goodness hath created by his Word³ heaven and earth, and all that is in them: For whom all things do come: without whom there is nothing at all: And that he is⁴ just and merciful: who also⁵ works all in all⁶ after his own will:⁷ To whom it is not lawful to say, wherefore he doeth thus or thus.

Creation of man

Moreover, these Bookes teach us, that this very God Almighty, after he created all things, shaped also Adam the first man,⁸ to the image and spiritual similitude of himselfe, and that he did constitute him Lord over all things that he had created in earth Which Adam by the cunning and fraude of the devill, transgressing the precept of his Creator⁹ by this his sinne brought in such and so great sinne into the worlde that we which be sprong from him by the flesh.¹⁰ be in nature the children of wrath, and thereupon we be made subject and thrall to death, to damnation, to the yoke and tyranny of the devill.

Christ promised

Furthermore, we are taught by these excellent books, that God promised to Adam,¹¹ Abraham¹² Isaac,¹³ Jacob,¹⁴ David,¹⁵ and to other Fathers of the olde time, that hee would send that blessed seede, his sonne Jesus Christ our Savior, which should deliver all those from sinne, and from the¹⁶ tyrannie of the devil which by a lively and working faith should believe this promise, and put their trust in Jesus Christ, hoping that of him and by him, they should obtaine this deliverance.

¹ Isaiah 49:14

² Gen. 21:33

³ Gen. 2:2; Isa. 45:18

⁴ Exod. 9:17; psa.9:7,8; Isa. 45: 13; Exod. 22:27

⁵ I Cor. 12:6

⁶ Jer. 18:6

⁷ Isaiah 45:9; Rom. 9:10

⁸ Gen. 1:27; 2:23-24

⁹ Rom. 5:14,18

¹⁰ Ephes. 2:3

¹¹ Gen. 3:25

¹² Gen. 12:3

¹³ Gen. 26:4

¹⁴ Gen. 18:14

¹⁵ II Sam. 7:12; Psalm 132:10

¹⁶ Heb. 2:14

The Laws

Also they gave us to understand, that in the meane season, while those Fathers the Israelites looked for the salvation, and deliverance promised (for the nature of man is such, to proude and to corrupt, that those would not willingly acknowledge themselves to be sinners, which had neede of the Saviour promised) God the Creator gave by Moses his¹⁷ Lawe written in two Tablets of stone; that by it, sinne and the malice if mans heart being known,¹⁸ might more vehemently thirst for the¹⁹ coming of Jesus Christ, who should redeeme and deliver them from sinne: which thing, neither the Lawe, nor yet the sacrifices and oblations of the Law did performe.²⁰ For they were shadowes and figures of the true oblation of the body of Christ: by which oblation all sinne²¹ should be blotted out, and quite put away.

Christ God our Saviour came

By the books of the newe Testament we be taught, that Christ so afore promised (²² which is God above all things most blessed forever) hee, I say, was shadowed in the Bookes of the old Testament, and in sacrifices figured, that he was sent²³ from the Father, the selfe same time which the Father did constitute within himself: I say, at that time²⁴ when all wickedness abounded in the worlde, then he was sent: And this Jesus our savior being borne in the flesh, suffered death, and rose againe from the dead.²⁵ Which actes of his were not done by him in respect of the ²⁶good works of any man (for we were all sinners) but that this God our Father should appeare true²⁷ in exhibiting the abundant riches of his grace²⁸ through his mercie²⁹ he might bring us to salvation.

A Lambe, a Sacrifice, Peace, Adoption

Whereupon it is evidently shewed in the Newe Testament,³⁰ that Jesus Christ, being the true Lambe,³¹ the true sacrifice³² of the world, Putting away the sinnes of men,³³ came into this worlde to purchase grace and peace for us with the Father,³⁴ washing us from our sinnes in his owne blood,³⁵ and should deliver us from bondage of the devil,³⁶ whom by sinne we did serve:

¹⁷ Exod. 20:1

¹⁸ Rom. 3:20

¹⁹ Gal. 3:19

²⁰ Heb. 7:18; 10:1

²¹ John 1:29

²² Rom. 9:5

²³ Luke 1:30

²⁴ Gal. 4:4,5; Ephes. 1:10

²⁵ Rom. 5:8

²⁶ Eph. 2:9

²⁷ Rom. 15:8

²⁸ Eph. 2:7

²⁹ Titus 3:5

³⁰ Isaiah 53:7

³¹ John 1:19

³² Eph. 5:2; Heb. 9:26

³³ Acts 3:19

³⁴ Eph. 2:14, 15

³⁵ Rev. 1:5

³⁶ Heb. 2:14

And so we should be adopted by him³⁷ to be the sonnes of God, made heires³⁸ with him of that most excellent and everlasting kingdome.

The holy Ghost, Faith

Now that wee should acknowledge this singular and excellent benefite of God towards us, Almighty God giveth us his holy Spirite:³⁹ the fruite and effect of the which is faith in God, and in his Christ.⁴⁰ For without the holy Ghost, by which we are instructed ad sealed,⁴¹ neither can we beleeve that God the Father sent Messias, nor yet that Jesus is Christ. For no man (sayeth Paul) can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the holy Ghost.⁴² The same Spirit witnesseth to our Spirit that we are the children of God,⁴³ and poureth into our bowels that charitie which Paul described to the Corinthians.⁴⁴ Furthermore, that holy Spirit doth give us hope, which is a sure looking for eternal life, wheeof he himsele is the certaine token and pledge.⁴⁵ Also, he giveth us other spiritual gifts of which Paul writeth to the Galatians.⁴⁶ Therefore this benefit of faith is not to be despised or to be set by. For by the means of this trust and faith in Christ,⁴⁷ which worke by charity,⁴⁸ and sheweth it selfe forth by the works of charitie, moving man thereto, we are justified and sanctified;⁴⁹ that is to say, God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (which is made our Father also by him,⁵⁰ being our brother⁵¹) doth account us to be just and holy through his grace, and through the merits of his sonne Jesus Christ, not imputing our sinnes to us⁵² so farre forth, that we should suffer the paines of hell for them.

Good works

Finally, Christ himself came into the world to the intent that we through him being sanctified and cleansed from our sinnes, following his will in good works, should denie the things pertaining to the flesh, and freely serve him in righteousness and holiness⁵³ all the dayes of our life: and that by good workes⁵⁴ (which God hath prepared for us to walke in) wee should shew our selves to be: called to his grace and gift of faith,⁵⁵ which good works who so hath not, doth shewe himsele not to have such a faith in Christ as is required in us.

³⁷ Gal. 4:5; Eph. 1:5

³⁸ Rom. 8:17

³⁹ Eph. 3:5; Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6

⁴⁰ Eph. 5:1; Gal. 5:23

⁴¹ Eph. 1:13; 4:3

⁴² I Cor. 12:3

⁴³ Rom. 8:16

⁴⁴ Rom. 5:5; II Cor. 13:4

⁴⁵ Eph. 1:14

⁴⁶ Gal. 5:22

⁴⁷ Gal. 5:6

⁴⁸ Eph. 5:2; Heb. 13:11

⁴⁹ Rom. 3:30, 33; 4:2; Gal. 2:16

⁵⁰ Matt. 5:48; 23:9

⁵¹ Heb. 2:11

⁵² Ii Cor. 5:19

⁵³ Luke 1:74

⁵⁴ Eph. 2:10

⁵⁵ Ii Peter 1:10

Christ our master and teacher

To Christ must wee come, and follow him with a cheerful minde,⁵⁶ that he may teach: For hee is our master,⁵⁷ lowly and humble of heart: he is to us an example,⁵⁸ whereby we must learne the rule to live well.

Bishop, Mediator, Advocate

Moreover, he is our Bishop,⁵⁹ and our high Priest,⁶⁰ which did himself offer up for us his owne blood, being he onely mediator betweene God and men:⁶¹ Who now sitteth at the right hand of God the Father, being made our advocate,⁶² making prayer and intercession: who doubtlesse shall obtaine for us whatsoever we shall desire,⁶³ either of him, or else of his Father in his Name, if so be that we thus desiring, shall believe that he will so do for thus hath he promised. Therefore let us not doubt, if wee sinne at any time, to come with repentance⁶⁴ (to the which he both invite and stirre us at the very beginning of his preaching) and with sure trust to the throne of his grace,⁶⁵ with this beleefe, that we shall obteine mercie. For therefore he came into the world, that he might save sinners by his grace.⁶⁶

Judgement, Eternal life, Eternal fire

This is verily Christ Jesus, which shal come at a certaine time appointed by his Father,⁶⁷ and shal sit in great majestie to judge all men,⁶⁸ and to render to every man the works of his body according to that he hath done, whether it be good or evill:⁶⁹ And he shal say to them which shall bee on the right side, which in this world did looke for the good things to come (that I to say, life everlasting), Come ye blessed of my Father, enjoy the kingdome that hath bene prepared for you from the beginning of the world. But to them which shall be on the left side, he shal say: Depart from me ye cursed into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his Angels.⁷⁰ And then shall the end be,⁷¹ when Christ having utterly vanquished all maner of enemies, shall deliver up the kingdome to God the Father.

⁵⁶ Eph. 5:2

⁵⁷ Matt. 23:8

⁵⁸ John 13:15

⁵⁹ II Peter 2:25

⁶⁰ Heb. 4:14

⁶¹ I Tim. 2:5

⁶² I John 2:1-2

⁶³ John 14:13; 16:23; Mark 11:24

⁶⁴ Matt. 4:17

⁶⁵ Heb. 4:15

⁶⁶ I Timothy 1:15

⁶⁷ Matt. 25:13

⁶⁸ II Tim. 4:1

⁶⁹ I Cor. 5:10

⁷⁰ Matt. 25:34 etc.

⁷¹ I Cor. 15:24-26

To what intente the Scriptures were written

To the intent that we might understand these things, the sacred Bookes of the Bible were delivered to us by the goodnesse of God through his holy Spirit,⁷² with the preaching of that doctrine which is contened in them, and with his Sacraments, by which the truth of his doctrine is sealed up to us that we might understand,⁷³ I say, and beleeve that there is one onely true God, and one Saviour Jesus Christ, whom (a hee had promised) hee hath sent: and that we believing might have in his Name life everlasting.⁷⁴

Christ the onely foundation

Beside this foundation,⁷⁵ no man can lay any other in the Church of Christ: and upon this foundation the Church doth stand fexe and stedfast. And Paul willeth him to bee accursed which shall preach any other faith and salvation,⁷⁶ than by Jesus Christ, yea, although he were an Angel from heaven.

For of him, through him and for him, are al things: To whom with the Father and the holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without ende, Amen.⁷⁷

⁷² II Peter 1:19, 21

⁷³ John 17:3

⁷⁴ John 20:31

⁷⁵ I Cor. 3:11

⁷⁶ Gal/ 1:8

⁷⁷ Rom. 11:36