

# Bluffer's Guide to Christian Doctrine – 7

## ***Reading Scripture with the Creed***

### A. The Text of Scripture – where has it come from and what is its nature?

Has the Bible's text somehow been 'given' to us?  
How many texts are there, and are they consistent?  
What is the boundary between what is and is not scripture: the Canon?

### B. The Authority of Scripture

Who gives the Bible its authority?

- God – Torah / Gospel
- Church – Canon / Creed
- Me

The idea of the Word of God – what do we mean?  
Inspiration of Scripture

### C. Reading the Bible

The Bible is normally a translation – nothing new about this  
The Bible always needs to be interpreted  
The Difference between *exegesis* and *hermeneutics*  
The Scope for diversity  
Is there a difference between a Christian's view of the Bible and a Muslim's view of the Koran?

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### D. How we read the Bible: the tension between the individual reading and the corporate reading

#### Individual Reading

All of us can hear God's word as we read the Bible for ourselves  
Is the Bible addressed to 'me', or to something else?  
The Christian responsibility to read the Bible  
The dangers: revisionism, restriction of scope, being one's own personal guru

#### Corporate Reading

The Bible in Christian worship  
Public reading  
Good preaching: exposition  
Meditative reading: *lectio divina*  
Using the Psalms in worship (daily prayer)

## Hymns and Songs

The dangers: dull conformity, lack of imagination, closedness to new insight, 'locking down the text', requiring a mediator

### E. Interpretations in Conflict: why the Bible doesn't necessarily bring unity

An example from history: the slave trade