

# 1. God and Scripture: a biblical outline

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## 1. Introduction: the doctrine of Scripture

[T]he fulfilment and the end of the Law, and of all Holy Scripture, is the love of an object which is to be enjoyed [God], and the love of an object which can enjoy that other in fellowship with ourselves [our neighbour]. ... The whole temporal dispensation for our salvation, therefore, was framed by the providence of God that we might know this truth and be able to act upon it; and we ought to use that dispensation, not with such love and delight as if it were a good to rest in, but with a transient feeling rather, such as we have towards the road, or carriages, or other things that are merely means. Perhaps some other comparison can be found that will more suitably express the idea that we are to love the things by which we are borne only for the sake of that towards which we are borne.

Augustine, *On Christian Doctrine*

## 2. God, Christ, and words

### a. God's *action* and his words

- Genesis 1
- Psalm 29.5, 8
- Isaiah 55.10-11
- justification
- effectual calling (Rom 8.30)

### b. God *himself* and his words

The covenant promise (Gen 17.7; Exod 6.4-5)

- God's actions, including his verbal actions (i.e. his words) are a kind of extension of him.
- God cannot establish his covenant with us without using words

### c. God's words and human words

- Deuteronomy 18.15-20
- Jeremiah 1.9-10

d. Christ's words, and God's action and person

- John 14.9
- John 8.28; 12.49-50; 17.8
- 1 John 1.1

e. God's words, Christ's words and human words

- John 17.8, 20
- Matthew 10.14-15, 40

f. God's words and the Bible

- John 16.13-15
- To pay proper attention to the words of the Bible is to encounter the spiritual reality to which God intends his word to point.

**3. The Bible as God's active speech**

- All human language is 'people acting in relationships'
- The Bible is God-in-action

**4. Conclusion**

- To say "I trust Christ", and to say "I trust the words that Christ speaks in Scripture", is to say the same thing
- God is actively present to us in and through Scripture