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Autopistia : the self-convincing authority of scripture in reformed theology

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Citation

Belt, H. van der. (2006, October 4). *Autopistia : the self-convincing authority of scripture in reformed theology*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/4582>

Version: Corrected Publisher's Version

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Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Autopistia

**The Self-Convincing Authority of Scripture
in Reformed Theology**



Henk Van den Belt

Autopistia offers a historical survey and a theological evaluation of the self-convincing character of Scripture in Reformed theology. Calvin adopted the term αὐτόπιστος from ancient Greek philosophy and used it to express that faith does not rest on the human authority of the church but on Scripture as the living voice of God.

After discussing the meaning of the term in Reformed Orthodoxy and analyzing the theological position of Benjamin B. Warfield and Herman Bavinck on this issue, Henk Van den Belt draws his theological conclusions in this PhD thesis, advocating a revitalization of the *autopistia* of Scripture, because it implies that faith finds rest in Scripture itself and not in the external authority of the church or of rational arguments and that Word and Spirit are inseparably connected.

Henk Van den Belt (1971) studied theology at Leiden University from 1989-1995. In 1995 he was ordained as a pastor in the Dutch Reformed Church and presently he serves the congregation of Nijkerk. For one day a week he is exempted from his pastoral charges to coach Middle and East European theological students.