



Equipping Hour

The Sufficiency of Scripture

Key Verse: Psalm 19:8

“The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.”

Overview

When God gave us His Word, He gave us all that we needed to live. His Word gives us the answer to how a sinner can be saved and how a Christian can be sanctified. There is nothing that God has hidden from us that we would need to know in order to receive salvation. There is also nothing that God has hidden from us that we would need to know in order to live a joyful, satisfying life. God has given us everything that we need in His Word. To put it simply, God’s Word is sufficient. What is the doctrine of the sufficiency of Scripture? To say that the Scripture is sufficient is to say that the Bible is all we need to equip us for a life of faith and service.

Not only has the inspiration and inerrancy of Scripture been under attack over that past decades, but so has the sufficiency of Scripture. Sadly, that attack comes far too often in our own churches. Management techniques, worldly methods of drawing crowds, entertainment, extra-biblical revelations, mysticism, and social norms are all attacking the sufficiency of Scripture.¹ However, possibly the most domineering attack in the church comes from psychology. Psychology has infiltrated the church and most “Christian counseling” is not done by pastors or those trained in seminaries, it is done by psychologists. In 1985, John MacArthur said, “Pastors that once would go to seminary and learn the Word of God or Bible college and master the Scripture, are now going to schools of psychology to study human wisdom in dealing with the problems of mankind.”²

Dr. Heath Lambert, Executive Director at the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors (ACBC), said, “Is Scripture sufficient to inform all possible counseling situations in a fallen world? The implications of such a question are massive. If Scripture is an overflowing source of wisdom for all counseling, then the pressing task for Christians is to be busy mining the text of Scripture for an understanding of the manifold problems people experience and for the wisdom to help them. If Scripture, though valuable and useful, is ultimately inadequate as a source of wisdom for all counseling, then the urgent work is to look to the corpus of secular psychology for those truths that supply the Bible’s lack.”³

¹ <https://www.gotquestions.org/sufficiency-of-Scripture.html>

² <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/80-18/the-sufficiency-of-scripture-part-1>

³ Stuart Scott and Heath Lambert, *Counseling the Hard Cases* (B&H Publishing Group, 2012), 2.

How a person answers Lambert's question above will tell their view of the sufficiency of Scripture. However, the Bible tells us that it alone is sufficient for all matters pertaining to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). It has the power to lead a person to saving faith (2 Timothy 2:15) and is a light to the believer's path (Psalm 119:105). Between the Scriptures and the indwelling Holy Spirit, the believer needs no additional revelation to be informed on how to live the Christian life. The Bible is sufficient to save God's people and sanctify God's people.

Sufficient to Save

1. Romans 10:17. What must a person do before saving faith? _____
2. Psalm 19:7. What does the perfect law of the Lord do? _____
3. 1 Peter 1:23. How is a person born again? _____
4. 2 Timothy 3:15. What did the word of God do for Timothy? _____

5. James 1:18. How does God save sinners? _____
6. Romans 1:16. What is the power of God for salvation? _____
7. 1 Corinthians 1:18. What is foolishness to the world? _____
8. What is the word of the cross to us who are being saved? _____
9. Luke 16:27–31. What is sufficient to save sinners? _____

The Process:

Romans 10:14. The message needs a _____.

1 Corinthians 1:21. God uses the message _____ to save sinners.

2 Corinthians 5:18–20. God uses _____ to get the message out.

The Point:

The sufficiency of Scripture does not preclude the need for Christians to proclaim the gospel!

Sufficient to Sanctify

1. 2 Timothy 3:16–17. What does God’s Word do for believers?
 - a. _____.
 - b. _____.
 - c. _____.
 - d. _____.

2. Psalm 19:7–14. List the seven sanctifying works God’s Word does for believers.
 - a. Scripture is able to _____ . (7a)
 - b. Scripture is able to _____ . (7b)
 - c. Scripture is able to _____ . (8a)
 - d. Scripture is able to _____ . (8b)
 - e. Scripture is able to _____ . (9a)
 - f. Scripture is able to _____ . (9b)
 - g. Scripture is able to _____ . (11)

“The most fulfilled life—joyful, satisfying, and eternally worthwhile life—is a life lived in obedience to the Word of God.”
—Kevin D. Zuber

Application

1. What are ways people deny the sufficiency of Scripture?
2. Why is the sufficiency of Scripture so important for you as a believer?
3. Do you believe God’s Word has all the answers for life and godliness?