

A Systematic Study of the Person of God
Session 2 - The Word of God

4 Things Every Believer Must Know about the Word of God

1. When the Bible Speaks, God speaks – The Authority of the Scripture

The authority of Scripture means that all the words in the Scripture are God's word in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God. -Grudem, Systematic Theology, p. 62.

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- 2 Peter 1:16-21

The authority of scripture means that *all* other authorities sit under the authority of scripture. Because God is the highest authority, scripture is the highest authority. Everything must answer to God's word.

- Jesus's own understanding of the authority of Scripture
 - Matthew 4:1-5
- Jesus see's the written word of God as the highest authority above all others!

Is the Bible *your* authority?

2. When the Bible Speaks, it is never in error – The Inerrancy of Scripture

The inerrancy of Scripture means that Scripture in the original manuscripts does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact. -Grudem, Systematic Theology, p. 85.

- What does the Bible say about itself?
 1. Psalm 12: 6 – “The words of the Lord are pure word, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times.”
 2. Prov 30:5 – “Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him”

- Qualifying Statements about *Inerrancy*
 1. Normal human language often isn't precise, but it can still be truthful
 2. Differences aren't contradictions
 - How many angels were at Jesus' tomb??
 - Differences actually serve as a strength!

- But some passages really are difficult.
 - How did Judas die?
 - Matthew 27:5-8

 - Acts 1:16-18

3. The Bible is NOT optional – The Necessity of Scripture

the necessity of Scripture means that the Bible is necessary for knowing the gospel, for maintaining spiritual life, and for knowing God's will, but it is not necessary for knowing that God exists or for knowing something about God's character or moral laws.
-Grudem, *Systematic Theology* 2nd ed. p. 137.

- What is the Bible not needed for?
 - Knowing that God exists
 - Psalm 19:1-4 – “¹The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. ²Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. ³There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. ⁴Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.
 - Knowing certain things about God's character and Moral Laws
 - Romans 1:28-32
 - Romans 2:14

- What is the Bible needed for?
 - Knowledge of the Gospel
 - Romans 10:13-15

 - See John 3:18 & Acts 4:12
 - We lack righteousness and we need to know how to get the righteousness of another!

4. When the Bible Speaks, it is always enough – The Sufficiency of Scripture

the sufficiency of Scripture means that Scripture contains all the words of God needed for salvation, for trusting him perfectly, and for obeying him perfectly.
-Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 2nd ed. p. 152.

The sufficiency of Scripture means that the Bible contains everything that God would have us do and believe.

- 2 Timothy 3:15-17
- For further study on the sufficiency of scripture, see Ps. 19:7-11 and Ps. 119
- Because the scripture has its source in God, nothing else is needed. He has fully equipped us in his word. The scripture is more than enough!