

Session 4: What do We Believe About the Sufficiency of Scripture?

Part 1: A summary of what we have learned over the last several weeks:

- Every word of scripture is God breathed.
- Even though God used human instruments to give us His word, every word that they wrote was ultimately from His mouth.
- God cannot lie nor does He need to learn something new, therefore, everything that He speaks is true.
- Everything that the scriptures affirmed were true then, are true now, and will be true forever.
- To doubt the truthfulness of any affirmation in scripture is ultimately a questioning of God's character.
- Inerrancy is a watershed issue for Christians. To compromise on the conviction of inerrancy will ultimately lead to the reader not the author being the ultimate judge of what is true.

Part 2: What does it mean to say that the scriptures are sufficient?

- **Answer:** The Scriptures are our final authority; because God has given in them everything that we need to know so that we can be saved from our sin, grow in an intimate knowledge of Him, grow into Christlikeness, and obey Him fully.
 - **Final authority for salvation...**
 - **Final authority for an intimate knowledge of God...**
 - **Final authority for growth into Christlikeness...**
 - **Final authority to obey Him fully...**

Part 3: What is the scriptural basis for this conviction?

- **Psalm 19:7-8** "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes..."
 - **What are the scriptures?** They are God's perfect complete, revelation of Himself in written form.
 - **What do the scriptures do in us?**
 - They bring about conversion.
 - They give us wisdom.
 - They encourage us.
 - They give us spiritual understanding.
- **2 Timothy 3:15-17** "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of

God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works..."

- **What are the scriptures?** They are God's perfect complete, revelation of Himself in written form
- **What do the scriptures do in us?**
 - They make us wise unto salvation.
 - They shape our doctrine.
 - They shape how we rebuke.
 - They shape how we help people get back on track when they have stumbled.
 - They shape how we prepare people to deal with life's issues.
 - They bring us to full spiritual maturity.
 - They fully equip us to do every good work.
- **Romans 10:17** "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God..."
 - **What do the scriptures do in us?**
 - They bring us to faith in Christ.
- **1 Peter 2:2** "Desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby..."
 - **What do the scriptures do in us?**
 - They cause us to grow spiritually.
- **Psalms 119:9-11** "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee..."
 - **What do the scriptures do in us?**
 - They cleanse us and keep us away from sin.

Part 4: How do the scripture warn us about accepting rival sources of authority to the authority to scripture:

- **Adding to what God has said: Proverbs 30:5-6** "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar..."
- **Philosophy/Worldly wisdom: Colossians 2:8** "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ..."
- **Religious Traditions: Mark 7:9** "And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition..."

- **Experience: Colossians 2:18** "Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind..."
- **Novel Theological positions: Matthew 7:15** "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves..."
- **Assumptions: 1 Timothy 1:3-4** "As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine, Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith..."

Part 5: Some important considerations:

- **Belief in the sufficiency of scripture should not encourage or justify spiritual isolation:**
 - **Christians are commanded to not neglect the assembling of the church.**
 - Mutual edification
 - Spiritual authority
 - Spiritual accountability
 - Preaching and teaching
 - The ordinances
 - Reading biblically grounded resources
- **Belief in the sufficiency of scripture does not contradict the need for sound godly wisdom:**
 - **General command with theological implications:** "Husbands should love their wife as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it..."
 - **General command with theological implications:** "Ye father provoke not your children to wrath but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord..."
 - Pre-marriage counseling
 - Mentoring relationships
 - Good Biblical resources.
 - Listening to sermons and lectures
- **Belief in the sufficiency of scripture will not cause us to oversimplify the issues:**
 - **Many of our problems sometimes are more complex than we realize.**
 - **Example of young man who is unmotivated in His work:**
 - **Theological side to this problem: Colossians 3:22-24**
"Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the

flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ..."

- He needs to see that his laziness actually matters to God.
- He will stand before God some day and give an account for what he did with God's good gifts, his stewardship.
- He needs God to enable Him to think Biblically and to act on what he knows to be true.
- **Physical side:** He doesn't have good sleep habits, good nutrition, or exercise regularly and now has health issues that have been brought on as a result of these poor life decisions over time.
- **Psychological side:** He feels very depressed. He has established very firm patterns of laziness through habitual laziness.

Part 6: A final word about the sufficiency of scripture:

- **2 Timothy 2:24-26** "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will..."
 - Belief in the sufficiency of scripture will cause us to be gracious and patient.
 - It will cause us to be focused in the way we deal with people.
 - It will convince us that repentance is at the heart of all lasting change.
 - It will make us both diligent and dependent.