

Why We Believe the Bible Sermon Series | Part 7

# The Sufficiency of Scripture

2 Peter 1:3-4

**Deut. 6:3** Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

**Deut. 6:4-7** Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

## God's Design for Effective Parenting:

- Recognize God's absolute authority.
- Love God with all your heart.
- Saturate yourself with God's Word.
- Teach Scripture to your children at all times and in every circumstance.

**Mat. 18:5-6** Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

**Deut. 6:4-7** Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

**2 Pet. 1:3-4** His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

## I. Why Is the Bible Sufficient?

**2 Pet. 1:3-4** His divine power has granted to us **all things that pertain** to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

**2 Pet. 1:19-21** And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

### A. Because God Is Absolutely Great

**2 Pet. 1:3-4** His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

**Col. 2:8-9** See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily.

- **Philosophy – Human Worldviews**

#### GOD-CENTERED WORLDVIEW

Everything was created by God.  
Everything exists for God.  
God is the purpose of the universe.  
God defines life.  
Man lives for God.

#### MAN-CENTERED WORLDVIEW

Not sure how all came into existence.  
Everything exists for man.  
Man is the purpose of the universe.  
Man defines life.  
God is expected to exist for man.

- **Human Traditions**

**Mk. 7:7-9** in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'<sup>8</sup> You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men."<sup>9</sup> And he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition!"

#### SCRIPTURE ALONE

Truth is defined by God  
Scripture interprets Scripture  
God's authority  
Trust in God  
Pleasing God

#### SCRIPTURE + TRADITION

Truth is defined by the people  
Scripture is interpreted by Tradition  
Human authority  
Trust in people  
Pleasing people

- **Naturalism – Human Rationalism Above God**

SCRIPTURE ALONE

Truth is defined by God  
 The authority of God's Word  
 Trust in God and His Word  
 Worship of the Creator  
 The religion of God the Creator

SCRIPTURE + SCIENTIFIC CONCLUSIONS

Truth is determined by scientists  
 The authority of science  
 Reliance on the conclusions of scientists  
 Worship of the creation  
 The religion of human reason

- **Mysticism – Human Pseudo-Spirituality**

TRUE SPIRITUALITY

Arises from the objective truth of Scripture  
 The priority of God  
 The steady transformation of the affections  
 Growth in maturity

HUMAN PSEUDO-SPIRITUALITY

Based on feelings and experiences  
 The priority of man  
 Emotional highs and lows  
 Spiritual instability

**Col. 2:18** Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind.

**Luke 16:29-31** But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'

- **Psychology – Human Feelings**

SCRIPTURE ALONE

The primary authority is Scripture  
 Trust in God and His truth  
 The meaning of life is defined by God  
 Leads to a full and meaningful life  
 Worship of God

SCRIPTURE + PSYCHOLOGY

The primary authority is feelings  
 Trust in one's own feelings  
 The meaning of life is defined by feelings  
 Unstable feelings cannot serve as the foundation of life  
 Worship of self

**Mat. 16:24-25** Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.'

**Gal. 5:22-23** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

## B. Because Reality Is Unchanging

- **God Is Unchanging**

**Ps. 90:2** Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, **from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

**Jas. 1:17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, **with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.**

- **The human heart is unchanging**

**Jer. 17:9** The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick;

**Ps. 51:5** Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

- **Christ and the way of salvation have not changed.**

**Heb. 13:8** Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

**John 14:6** Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

**1 John 5:11-12** And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

**Mat. 24:35** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

**Is. 40:8** The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

**Ps. 119:89** Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.

## II. What Is the Bible Sufficient For?

**2 Pet. 1:3-4** His divine power has granted to us **all things that pertain to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

## **Everything we need for life and godliness:**

- The Bible explains who we are.
- The Bible describes the reality of the world.
- The Bible speaks about the problem of sin and condemnation.
- The Bible reveals the way of salvation.
- The Bible unites us with Christ.
- The Bible teaches us how to live a full life in Christ.
- The Bible points us to the meaning of life and our hope in Christ.