

SHEFFEY BIBLE COLLEGE — STUDENT HANDOUT

Course: Systematic Theology I

Instructor: Dr. Mike Sage

Chapter 8 — The Sufficiency of Scripture

What You Should Learn From Today’s Lecture

- Define the sufficiency of Scripture.
 - Explain why the Bible is enough for salvation and obedience.
 - Understand why nothing should be added to Scripture.
 - Identify false sources of authority.
 - Apply the doctrine of sufficiency to daily Christian living.
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I. Introduction — Is the Bible Enough?

The doctrine of sufficiency answers this question:

Common modern assumptions:

Key Truth:

II. Definition of the Sufficiency of Scripture

The sufficiency of Scripture means:

Scripture contains all the words of God we need for:

“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.”

—2 Timothy 3:15

“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.”

—2 Timothy 3:16–17

Notes:

Key Truth:

III. Scripture Is Sufficient for Every Good Work

Scripture equips believers for:

“Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD.”

—Psalm 119:1

Notes:

Key Truth:

IV. We Can Find God’s Answers in Scripture

We can use Scripture to:

We are not required to search:

Key Truth:

V. Sufficiency vs. False Authority Sources

False authority sources include:

Roman Catholic view:

Liberal theology:

Additional religious writings:

“Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it...”

—Deuteronomy 4:2

“Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.”

—Proverbs 30:6

“If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book.”

—Revelation 22:18

Notes:

Key Truth:

VI. Sufficiency Through Redemptive History

God revealed His Word:

At each stage, God's Word was:

Today, the Bible is:

Key Truth:

VII. Practical Applications of Sufficiency

1. We Can Teach Theology and Ethics

2. We Must Not Add to Scripture

3. Modern Revelations Are Not Equal to Scripture

4. Do Not Call Sin What Scripture Does Not Call Sin

5. Do Not Require What Scripture Does Not Require

6. Emphasize What Scripture Emphasizes

VIII. Discussion Questions

1. Why is it dangerous to add authority alongside Scripture?

2. How does the sufficiency of Scripture affect how we determine God's will?

Things to Know (Exam Review Section)

1. The sufficiency of Scripture means the Bible contains all God's words needed for salvation and obedience.
2. Scripture equips believers for every good work.
3. Nothing should be added to or taken from Scripture.
4. Scripture alone is the final authority for doctrine and life.
5. Theology and ethics can be derived from Scripture.
6. Extra-biblical writings are not equal to Scripture.
7. Modern revelations are not authoritative like Scripture.
8. Legalism adds rules not found in Scripture.
9. Only Scripture defines sin and obedience.
10. Believers must emphasize what Scripture emphasizes.

A question on the exam will ask if you did the assigned reading.

Closing Summary

The sufficiency of Scripture teaches that God has given everything necessary for salvation, growth, and obedience in His Word. Therefore, believers must trust Scripture fully, refuse to add to it, and live according to it.

ASSIGNMENT

Read Chapter 8 — *The Sufficiency of Scripture*