

# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY I — STUDENT HANDOUT

Instructor: Dr. Jody Jenkins

## Chapter 7 — The Four Characteristics of Scripture: (3) Necessity

---

### What You Should Learn From Today's Lecture

- Define the necessity of Scripture.
  - Explain why the Bible is required for salvation.
  - Explain why the Bible is required for spiritual growth.
  - Understand why Scripture gives certainty about God's will.
  - Distinguish between general revelation and special revelation.
  - Recognize the urgency of evangelism based on this doctrine.
- 

### I. Introduction — Why Do We Need the Bible?

The necessity of Scripture answers the question:  
What do we need the Bible for?

Key Truth:

---

---

The Bible is necessary for:

---

---

---

---

### II. The Bible Is Necessary for Knowing the Gospel

Salvation requires hearing and believing the gospel.

*“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.  
How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?”*

*...So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*  
—Romans 10:13–14, 17

Notes:

---

---

---

Christ is the only way of salvation:

*“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”*  
—John 14:6

*“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”*  
—Acts 4:12

Key Truth:

---

---

### **III. Old Testament Believers and the Word of Promise**

Old Testament believers were saved through faith in:

---

They looked:

---

Their faith was based on:

---

Key Truth:

---

---

### **IV. False Views of Salvation**

List and define the following:

Universalism:

---

Pluralism:

---

Inclusivism:

---

Annihilationism:

---

Postmortem salvation:

---

Key Truth:

---

---

## **V. The Bible Is Necessary for Spiritual Life**

Spiritual life must be sustained by the Word of God.

*“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”*

—Matthew 4:4

*“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”*

—1 Peter 2:2

Notes:

---

---

---

Key Truth:

---

---

## **VI. The Bible Is Necessary for Certain Knowledge of God's Will**

Without Scripture, we lack certainty about God's will.

*"The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us... that we may do all the words of this law."*

—Deuteronomy 29:29

Notes:

---

---

---

Key Truth:

---

---

## **VII. The Bible Is Not Necessary to Know God Exists**

Creation reveals God to all people.

*"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."*

—Psalm 19:1

*"For the invisible things of him... are clearly seen... so that they are without excuse."*

—Romans 1:20

Notes:

---

---

---

Key Truth:

---

---

## **VIII. The Bible Is Not Necessary to Know God's Moral Law**

Conscience reveals moral truth.

*“Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness...”*

—Romans 2:15

Notes:

---

---

Key Truth:

---

---

### **IX. General Revelation vs. Special Revelation**

General Revelation:

---

---

Special Revelation:

---

---

Key Distinction:

---

---

### **X. Implications of the Necessity of Scripture**

1. Evangelism is:

---

---

2. Missions are:

---

---

3. Bible reading is:

---

4. Scripture provides:

---

---

## **XI. Discussion Questions**

1. Why is hearing the gospel necessary for salvation?

---

2. How does the distinction between general and special revelation impact evangelism?

---

---

## **Things to Know (Exam Review Section)**

1. The necessity of Scripture means the Bible is required for salvation, growth, and knowing God's will.
2. Salvation comes only through faith in Jesus Christ.
3. Faith comes by hearing the Word of Christ.
4. The Bible is necessary for spiritual growth.
5. Scripture provides certain knowledge of God's will.
6. General revelation reveals God through creation and conscience.
7. All people know that God exists and are accountable to him.
8. General revelation cannot reveal the gospel.
9. Special revelation is necessary for salvation.
10. The necessity of Scripture establishes the urgency of evangelism and missions.

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

---

## **Closing Summary**

The necessity of Scripture teaches that while all people know something about God through creation and conscience, only the Bible reveals the gospel, sustains spiritual life, and provides certainty about God's will. Therefore, Scripture is essential for salvation, growth, and obedience.

---

**ASSIGNMENT**

Read Chapter 7 — *The Four Characteristics of Scripture: (3) Necessity*