

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

1. How is the Bible necessary for salvation?

a. The Bible is necessary for knowing the _____, for maintaining spiritual life, and for knowing God's _____, but it is not necessary for knowing that God _____ or for knowing something about God's character and moral laws.

—Romans 10:13-17

—It seems that there is no _____ of coming to saving faith apart from _____ knowledge of God's words of promise.

b. Different Views of How People Can Be Saved.

—_____: All people who ever lived will be saved (because God loves everyone and won't judge anyone).

—Religious _____: All sincere religious people from all religions will be saved (because all religions are different paths to the same God).

—Inclusivism: People can only be saved through the redeeming work of Christ, but all people who ever lived will still be saved, because after people die they will find out that they were saved by Christ's work (they were "included"), even people who had never heard of him or believed in him.

—Annihilationism: People who have not believed in Christ will not be saved, but after they die they will not be punished (or not for very long) because they will be annihilated and cease to exist.

—Postmortem _____: After unbelievers die, they will be given another opportunity (or a first opportunity) to trust in Christ, and most or all of them will be saved in this way.

—Exclusivism: Only those who have heard of Christ and trusted in him will be saved.

2. If we do not know all the facts in the universe, past, present, and future, then how can we ever attain certainty that we have correct information about any one fact?

a. We must _____ all the facts of the universe in order to be sure that no subsequently discovered fact will prove our present ideas to be _____.

b. Someone who does know all the facts in the universe, and who never _____, could tell us some true facts that we can then be sure will never be _____.

3. How can unbelievers have knowledge about God?

a. The New Testament clearly emphasizes that salvation comes to people when Christians _____ to them the good news about Jesus Christ.

—This has been the _____ for Christian missionary work throughout the history of the church.

b. If there were no written Word of God, we could not gain _____ about God's _____ through other means such as conscience, advice from others, an internal witness of the Holy Spirit, changed circumstances, and the use of sanctified reasoning and common sense.

c. Unbelievers can know something about God from the _____ revelation that is seen in the world around them.

—We must recognize that in a _____ world knowledge gained by observation of the world is always _____ and always liable to _____ or misinterpretation.

d. Therefore, the knowledge of God and creation _____ from Scripture must be used to interpret correctly the creation around us.

e. People can obtain knowledge that God exists and knowledge of some of his attributes simply from _____ themselves and the world around them.

—Psalm 19:1; Acts 14:16-17; Romans 1:19-21; Romans 2:14-15

4. Define General Revelation:

a. The _____ of God's existence, character, and moral law, which comes through creation to all humanity.

b. General revelation comes through observing _____, through seeing God's directing influence in _____, and through an inner sense of God's existence and his laws that he has placed inside every person.

5. Define Special Revelation:

a. Special revelation _____ all the words of Scripture but is not _____ to the words of Scripture, for it also includes, for example, many words of Jesus that were not recorded in Scripture, and probably there were many divinely authoritative words spoken by Old Testament prophets and New Testament apostles that were not recorded in Scripture either.

b. How the holiness and justice of God can ever be _____ with his willingness to forgive sins is a _____ that has never been solved by any religion apart from the Bible.

6. How were OT believers saved by faith?

a. Those who were saved under the old covenant were also saved through _____ in Christ, even though their faith was a forward-looking faith based on God's word of _____ that a Messiah or a Redeemer would come.

—Hebrews 11:13; Hebrews 11:26; John 8:56