

How Sufficient is Scripture – and for What?

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2 Timothy 3:15-17

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But you — you remain in the things that you learned and became convinced of, since you know those from whom you learned *them*,¹⁵ and that from infancy¹ you knew the sacred writings,² which are able to make you wise resulting in salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed, and is beneficial for teaching, for reproof, for restoration, for training which is in righteousness,¹⁷ so that the man of God may be equipped, for every good work fully-equipped. (2 Timothy 3:15-17 [DJP])

Introduction:

I. The Classic Text: 2 Timothy 3:14-17

A. Cheerless Situation (vv. 1-14)

1. Reality (vv. 1-9)
2. Anchor (vv. 10-14)

B. Comprehensive Revelation (vv. 15-17)

1. For s_____ wisdom (v. 15)
 2. For sanctification (v. 16)
 - a. Scope

1 Tim. 5:18; 2 Pet. 1:20
 - b. Characteristics
 - c. Uses
 3. For s_____ (v. 17)
 - a. Who does Paul have in mind?
 - b. What does Scripture make him?
 - c. For what does Scripture make him equipped?

¹ Literally “from an infant.”

² Literally “sacred letters”

II. An Array of Texts

A. Texts

Scripture. The sixty-six books of the Protestant canon, in their original writings, comprise the verbally inspired, inerrant Word of God.

The thirty-nine books known as the Hebrew Old Testament are God-breathed, products of the Holy Spirit's inspiration, and thus free from error in all that they affirm (cf. Deuteronomy 18:18-19; Psalms 19:7-8; 119:89, 142, 151, 160; Matthew 5:17-19; John 10:35; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

Similarly, the twenty-seven books known as the Greek New Testament are the eternally abiding words of Jesus Christ (Matthew 24:35), and are thus the words of God (John 7:16; 12:49). The Holy Spirit enabled the writers both to recall what the Lord said (John 14:26), and to continue to receive His revelation (John 16:12-15). As a result, the writings of the New Testament are the commandment of the Lord (1 Corinthians 14:37), are Scripture (2 Peter 3:15-16), and are God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16).

For this reason, the *sinner* finds the way of salvation through Scripture (Romans 10:17; 2 Timothy 3:15; Hebrews 2:1-3). The *believer* is made fruitful (Psalm 1:2-3) and successful in the will of God (Joshua 1:8), warned and kept from sin (Psalms 19:11; 119:9,11), made holy (John 17:17), given wisdom (Psalm 19:7) and freeing knowledge of the truth (John 8:31-32), taught the fear of God (Psalm 119:38), counseled (Psalm 119:24), taught, reproved, corrected, and disciplined in the way righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16) by Scripture. Scripture is, in short, **the fully adequate revelation of the person, ways, and will of God.**³

B. Implications

1. From the statement: the Bible tells us all...

2. *To whom* does the Bible speak with God's authority?

3. *About what* does the Bible speak with God's authority?

4. **Upshot:** the Bible contains everything for which we need a word from God

III. Challenges to Sufficiency

A. _____alism

B. _____alism

C. Concessionism

D. _____ism

³ Available online at http://www.bibchr.com/statement_of_faith.html.