

Subject: *God's Word is Sufficient*

Scripture: *Psalm 119:25-32*

About 500 years ago the Protestant Reformation began to take place in Europe. During that pivotal time five Latin phrases were used to summarize the Reformers' convictions about basic beliefs of the Christian faith. There were five "Solos" as they came to be known:

- *Sola Scriptura* (Scripture alone) – The Bible is the only authoritative source for faith and practice.
- *Sola Gratia* (grace alone) – Salvation is by the grace of God alone.
- *Sola Fide* (faith alone) – Salvation is by faith alone.
- *Solus Christus* (Christ alone) – Salvation is in Jesus Christ alone.
- *Soli Deo Gloria* (to the glory of God alone) – Salvation is for the glory of God alone.

Of these five fundamentals the most basic is *Sola Scriptura*, because our belief about the Bible is the foundation of all other beliefs. *Sola Scriptura* does not mean that the Bible is the only source of truth, but it does mean that everything in the Bible is absolute truth and everything else we learn about God, His world, and other things must be interpreted in the light of Scripture. It is the final authority and it alone is a sufficient guide for doctrine and practice. Psalm 119 is the ultimate text to illustrate the conviction of *Sola Scriptura*.

This section of eight verses (vs. 25-32) touches on many areas of a believer and his Bible.

Scripture is the source of life (vs. 25)

The psalmist feels like he is almost dead. His soul cleaves unto the dust. His only hope is for God to make give him life. We use the word "revival" which means "live again." Psalm 119 has a lot to say about giving life (vs. 37, 40, 50, 88, 93, 107, 149, 154, 156, 159). God is the source of all life and He uses His Word to give life. We need to be born again (regeneration) and this new life comes through His Word.

James 1:18 *Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*

1 Peter 1:23 *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*

But even after God makes us alive and gives us new birth, there are times when we feel so low and we're almost out of gas, just like the psalmist. We need an infusion of life, and God gives it through His Word.

Scripture is the source of guidance (vs. 26-27)

We need for God to teach us and help us understand His Word (vs. 34, 73, 125, 144, 169). Sometimes God does this directly and sometimes He uses people to come along side and help us. A good example of this is the story of Philip and the Ethiopian man in Acts 8.

Acts 8:30-31 ³⁰ *And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Isaiah, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?* ³¹ *And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.*

This man knew he needed help, and so do we. That's why God gives us pastors and teachers and Bible study books and commentaries. **Proverbs 13:20** *He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.*

The opposite of the Ethiopian man in Acts 8 is the person mentioned in **Proverbs 18:2** *A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself.* A fool has no interest in learning anything because he thinks he knows so much. We need to pray that God will give us teachable hearts.

Scripture is the source of strength (vs. 28)

The psalmist is melting from the heaviness of grief or sorrow, but he is strengthened by Scripture. How does God strengthen us through His Word? He reminds us of His attributes and that we must depend on His strength. **Isaiah 40:28-31** ²⁸ *Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.* ²⁹ *He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.* ³⁰ *Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:* ³¹ *But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*

Scripture is the source of truth (vs. 29-30)

In these verses the writer speaks of the way of lying and the way of truth. He is going to leave the way of lying and he has chosen the way of truth. Notice that you can't have it both ways. How can you leave the way of lying and choose the way of truth without leaving this world? The world is full of lies and deception. **Proverbs 14:12** *There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.* We need discernment. We need an infallible source of absolute truth and that is the Word of God. The writer is committed to God's way of truth (vs. 104, 128, 142, 163). He loves the truth and hates everything false.

Scripture is the source of confidence (vs. 31-32)

Total commitment to God's Word brings complete confidence—not self-confidence, but confidence in God. The person who sticks with God's Word will not be ashamed (disappointed). The writer is confident in God's ability rather than his own (vs. 32). He knows that he will stay faithful in the way of God's commandments. He will finish the race strong because God will give him strength.

Philippians 2:12-13 ¹² *Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.* ¹³ *For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

1 John 5:3 *For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous (burdensome).*

Do you remember Jacob and Rachel, one of the great love stories in the Bible? **Genesis 29:20** *And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her.*