

The Sufficiency of Scripture

1. Introduction.

- a. *Core Value*: “We are passionate about the proclamation and defense of the Scripture, as our final authority for faith and practice.”
- b. *Crucial ‘Doctrine of Scripture’ Issues in the Core Value*.

2. What’s the Foundation for our Lives? *Necessity of God’s Revelation/Scripture*

a. *Introduction*.

- i. This is a crucial question to ask. Think of it in terms of Matt 7:24 – rock/sand.
- ii. *Core Value*: Foundation = Scripture. Assumption: it is *necessary* for our lives.
- iii. *Why? 2 ideas. Because without it...*
 1. 1st: We would not know God *truly* – salvation, relationship, promises, etc.
 2. 2nd: We would not have a proper ground for knowing anything *truly*.
- iv. *Think of both of these areas*.
 1. 1st: *Knowing God truly*.
 2. 2nd: *Knowing truth at all*.

- b. *Scriptural Answer: The God who is There and the God who Speaks* (=Heb 1:1-3).

3. The Sufficiency of Scripture.

a. *Introduction: The Meaning of ‘Sufficiency.’*

- i. *Basic idea*: Scripture is ‘enough.’
- ii. *Definition* (=see e.g. Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 127).
 1. “The sufficiency of Scripture means that Scripture contained all the words of God he intended his people to have at each stage of redemptive history, and that it now contains all the words of God we need for salvation, for trusting him perfectly, and for obeying him perfectly.”
 2. Corollary idea: *Sola Scriptura*.
3. *Westminster Confession of Faith* 1.6 (1646) – “The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for his own glory, man’s salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men. Nevertheless, we

acknowledge the inward illumination of the Spirit of God to be necessary for the saving understanding of such things as are revealed in the Word: and that there are some circumstances concerning the worship of God, the government of the Church, common to human actions and societies, which are to be ordered by the light of nature, and Christian prudence, according to the general rules of the Word, which are always to be observed.”

iii. *Misunderstandings of Sufficiency and Sola Scriptura.*

1. It does *not* mean we don't have to read/interpret Scripture carefully.
 - a. Not every doctrine is tied to one verse/text – e.g. Trinity.
 - b. Not everything is said with equal clarity.
 - c. God has *not* told us everything (=Deut 29:29).
2. It does *not* mean that *tradition* is not important.
 - a. Tradition should guide, inform our reading of Scripture.
 - b. E.g. Confessions, doctrines (=Trinity, Christ, justification, etc).
 - c. Yet all tradition must be put to the test of Scripture (=Mk 7:1-23).

b. ***Classic Biblical Text on Scripture and Sufficiency (=2 Timothy 3:1-4:8; cf. 2 Pet 1:20-21).***

i. *Context of 2 Timothy 3-4.*

ii. *Scripture. What is it? Why is it important?*

1. *Purpose:* 'To make you wise unto salvation.'
2. *Nature.*
 - a. 'All Scripture' = All Scripture that is God-given.
 - b. 'God-breathed'.

3. *Sufficiency* (vv 16-17).

4. *Implication* (4:1-8) – 'Preach and teach the Word.'

c. ***Application of the Sufficiency of Scripture to our Lives.***

i. ***What areas is Scripture sufficient? Certainly – areas of 'faith and practice.'***

1. *Faith* (=beliefs, doctrine, theology, teaching, promises, salvation).

2. *Practice* (=obedience, life, ethics, etc).

ii. ***Is Scripture sufficient in areas beyond 'faith and practice?'***