

Subject: *The Holy Scriptures – Part 4*
Scripture: *Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 17-25*

We are now in the 5th message in our series on What We Teach. In the first sermon we laid the groundwork for all other messages as we considered the importance of biblical doctrine. Truth matters and biblical truth matters supremely. In the next three messages we dealt with the Scriptures and why they are the foundation for everything we believe and how we live. We considered two vital topics relating to the Bible: its authority and its clarity. Today we are going to think about the sufficiency of Scripture.

We know the Bible is inspired by God, it is clear in what it says, and it is sufficient for everything we need in life. Whatever our spiritual needs may be, Scripture is enough. Scripture is sufficient for our personal life, for our families, and for our church.

Josh Billings once said, “It ain’t what a man don’t know that hurts him. It’s what a man knows that ain’t so that hurts him.” That’s a clever saying, but when it comes to knowing the Bible it’s not entirely true. What a man don’t know will hurt him. We need to know what the Bible says, and we need to know what ain’t so or what is false and misleading. The Bible is our sufficient source of knowledge. Scripture doesn’t tell us everything we want to know, but it tells us everything we need to know. Here is a prayer to remember:

Psalms 119:73 *Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.*

In this message I want to look at three primary ways in which the Bible is sufficient.

1. Scripture is sufficient for SALVATION

Psalms 19:7 *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.*

John 17:3 *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

1 Timothy 2:5 *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*

Romans 1:16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

2 Timothy 3:15 *And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

Our great hymn reminds us that Scripture is the all-sufficient foundation for our faith.

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word?
What more can He say, than to you He hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled.*

There is one more powerful text about the sufficiency of Scripture for salvation.

Luke 16:19-31

2. Scripture is sufficient for CHRISTIAN LIVING AND SERVICE

In John Bunyan's classic story, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, Christian begins his journey for heaven traveling with a burden on his back and a book in his hand. That burden represents his sin and guilt. The book is God's Word. When he comes to the foot of the cross in salvation the burden of sin falls off his back, but he still needs the Word of God for the rest of his journey on the way to the Celestial City. In the same way, we get rid of our burden but we will always need God's Book.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 ¹⁶ *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

John 8:31-32 ³¹ *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; ³² And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

Ephesians 4:17-24 ¹⁷ *This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, ¹⁸ Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: ¹⁹ Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. ²⁰ But ye have not so learned Christ; ²¹ If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; ²³ And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; ²⁴ And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

The Bible teaches us how to live the Christian life. It teaches us how to live in our families. It teaches us how to live with one another in the church.

Psalms 119:63 *I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts.*

The Bible is able to lead us to saving faith in Christ. It is able to show us how to live for Christ. It is the guidebook we need for instructing our children. It tells how to obey God and glorify Him. It tells us what to do and what not to do. It leads us to spiritual growth and maturity.

Ephesians 4:11-12 ¹¹ *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.*

3. Scripture is sufficient for SPIRITUAL WARFARE

The Bible is a part of God's armor for the battlefield. It is the sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6).

1 John 2:13-14 ¹³ I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father. ¹⁴ I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

Psalms 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Psalms 119:133 Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.

The best example we have is Christ himself when He resisted and overcame the devil's temptations in the wilderness. Three times he quoted scripture, "It is written" and won the battle with Satan.

The Bible tells us all we need to know for salvation. It is sufficient.

The Bible tells us all we need to know for Christian living and service. It is sufficient.

The Bible tells us all we need to know for spiritual warfare. It is sufficient.

We don't need a new word from the Lord.

We don't need a dream or vision or an inner voice.

We don't need a dramatic emotional experience.

We don't need someone to come back from heaven or hell to tell us what it's like.

What we need is a reliable foundation and a dependable source of truth.

What we need is what we already have—the Word of God. It is enough.