

The Sufficiency of Scripture

Is the Bible enough for knowing what God wants us to think and to do?

“Scripture contains all the words God 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, and for obeying Him.” – Grudem, pg. 127

1. We are to search for God’s Words to us in Scripture alone. To look for a “word from the Lord” anywhere other than the Bible is to believe and act as if His Word is not sufficient.

2 Timothy 3: 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

1 Peter 1: 22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, 23 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; 24 for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, 25 but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

2. We can find all that God has said on a particular topic and we can find answers to our questions in the pages of the Bible.

Direct Statements

Derived Principles

The Will of God

1 Thess. 4: 3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, 5 not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;

1 Thessalonians 5: 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies, 21 but test everything; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil. 23 Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Romans 12: I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

1 Peter 2: 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. 3: 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

3. The amount of Scripture given was sufficient at each stage of redemptive history.

God's nature dictates that what He has said to us and when He has said it is sufficient at that time. He tells us not to add to His Word, yet when He speaks (again) He is not adding to His Word, but communicating more of it to us.

Don't add to His Word

Deut. 4: 2 You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you.

Deut. 12: 32 "Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it.

Prov. 30: Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. 6 Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar.

Rev. 22: 18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

4. Practical application of the Sufficiency of Scripture

A. What would God have us do or think?

B. Add nothing, and do not consider anything else equal to it.

C. God does not require us to believe anything about Himself or His redemptive work that is not found in the Scriptures. Jesus did say more than is recorded, but what we have is sufficient.

John 21:25 Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

D. Nothing is sin that is not forbidden by Scripture explicitly or by implication.

E. Nothing is required of us by God that is not commanded in Scripture explicitly or by implication.

F. Emphasize what Scripture emphasizes and be content with what God has told us.

Essential/Non-essential (in essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity)

First Degree matters, Secondary matters, etc.