## THE BIBLE IS GOD'S SUFFICIENT WORD

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- I. Introduction: Many good books, but only one Bible
- II. What does the "sufficiency of Scripture" mean and not mean?
  - A. Definition: Scripture's Sufficiency is that quality of Scripture by which God has ensured that everything that His people need to know and believe, for a correct understanding of the Christian Faith, and for their walk of faith in obedience and growth in Christlikeness, has been provided for them fully and infallibly in the canonical Christian Scriptures.
  - B. What the sufficiency of Scripture does not mean:
    - 1. It does not mean that Scripture is the only revelation God has given, or will give, to people. We believe God has given both general and special revelation, and special revelation includes more than what has been recorded in Scripture as well as what will be revealed in the new creation.
    - 2. It does not mean that Scripture is sufficient for areas of knowledge that Scripture is not intending to address (e.g., it is not sufficient as an infallible guide to the culinary arts, or auto mechanics, or computer programming, or learning to play the guitar). Yet, while it is not intended to provide sufficient knowledge in these and many other areas, it does provide necessary and sufficient instruction of both Christian belief and Christian conduct in pursuing any of these and all other areas of life.
- III. Biblical Support for the Sufficiency of Scripture
  - A. Paul, in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, supports the sufficiency of Scripture
  - B. Peter, in 2 Peter 1:3-11, supports the sufficiency of Scripture
  - C. Jesus' Teaching supports the sufficiency of Scripture

	1. John 8:31-32
	2. Luke 24:44-47
	3. John 16:12-14
IV.	Looking to Scripture for instruction on <i>all our questions</i> in both areas of Faith and Practice
	A. Questions of Faith—what to believe (theology)
	B. Questions of Practice—how we are to live (ethics)
	C. The Reformation commitment to "Sola Scriptura" and our lives today
V.	Final Thoughts on our Commitment to and Reading/Study of the Holy Scriptures
	A. Commit yourself to consistent Bible reading
	B. Engage in both fast-paced and slow-paced Bible reading
	C. Notice the "Who" equally as much as the "what" in your Bible reading
	D. Seek both informed minds and stirred affections in your Bible reading
	E. Commit yourself to hear and heed, understand and obey, what you encounter in your Bible reading