

## Essential 5: The Inerrancy and Sufficiency of Scripture

2 Peter 1:16-21

We continue walking our way through our series on Essentials. These essentials are vital if the church in America is going to flourish into the 21st century.

1. We have considered the essential of Global Missions
2. We have considered the essential of Local Missions
3. We have considered the essential of the Gospel Message
4. And last week we consider the essential of Expecting Suffering.

This morning we consider the essential of the Inerrancy and Sufficiency of Scripture. As we think about this essential, I want to encourage you to ask yourself the following question. **Is Scripture the first place you go to when you need counsel, guidance, direction, or answers?**

One survey found that although most people in the U.S. own a Bible, just a little over a third of Americans read the Bible once a week or more. Over a quarter of Americans never read the Bible.

1. According to the Barna Group and American Bible Society, 81% of U.S. adults said they consider themselves highly, moderately or somewhat knowledgeable about the Bible.
2. Yet less than half were able to name the first five books of the Bible.
3. And only half knew that John the Baptist was not one of the 12 apostles!
4. We can only imagine the ignorance that exists over doctrine.

Satan is a master schemer, and he knows that if he is to have any hope of bringing down believers, he will have to get their eyes off of the Word of God.

1. That is how he did it in the garden all the way back in Genesis 3
  - a. Satan's first step was to lead Eve to doubt God's word.
  - b. He asks the first question found in the Bible, "*has God really said?*" and it was meant to cast doubt on God's Word...and it worked!
2. This is why he spurred the Catholic Church of the 16th century to burn Bible translators, Bibles, and printing presses! If Satan could keep the Bible out of the hands of common man, he could keep them ignorant, blind, deaf, and dumb.
3. This is why he spurred the enlightenment period of the 18th century to attempt to discredit the Bible. If he could convince people that there were contradictions, that the Bible was untrustworthy, he could keep people from wasting their time reading it and believing it and keep them ignorant of truth.
4. Now today he has capitalized on our insatiable appetite for entertainment.
  - a. From the television set to the movie theatre
  - b. From social media to smart phones and video games
  - c. If he can distract people with bigger and better, more entertaining things, he can keep them from the Bible and keep them blind, deaf, and dumb.
  - d. This might be his greatest achievement yet!

If the church is to flourish into the future, we must battle for the Bible

1. Not just in our sermons, but practically
2. Not just from the pulpits with words, but day by day in our practical lives!
3. Our stability is rooted in our knowledge of AND obedience to this book.
  - a. The wise and foolish builder...he who hears and does is the wise builder.
  - b. He who hears and does not obey is the foolish builder, and his building comes crashing down.
3. In the words of one professor of NT at Biola University who has witnessed a startling decline in biblical knowledge over the past few years, "*The building hasn't come down yet, but the next strong wind might just do the job.*"

**Is Scripture the first place you go to when you need counsel, guidance, direction, or answers?** It has to be! It is our only sure and steady source of Truth.

READ/PRAY

We can have assurance that this is God's Word based on 3 things.

### **I. The Personal Witness of the Disciples v16-18**

*For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased"-- 18 and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.*

Peter was an eyewitness of His majesty.

1. He is clearly pointing us back to their experience on the mount of transfiguration.
2. Matthew 17:1-8

*Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. 2 And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.*

1. Jesus' face shone like the sun and His garments became as white as light.
2. He was seen in His glory as He will be seen when He comes again.

*3 And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.*

1. Moses and Elijah represented the Old Testament: Moses, the law and Elijah, the prophets.
2. Jesus was right there in between them as the giver of the law, the perfect fulfillment of the prophets and the subject of the gospels.

*4 Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah." 5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!" 6 When the disciples heard this, they fell face down to the ground and were terrified. 7 And Jesus came to them and touched them and said, "Get up, and do not be afraid." 8 And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus Himself alone.*

1. They had His deity affirmed by the Heavenly Father
2. They were personal witnesses.

## II. The Prophetic Witness of the Old Testament v19

*19 So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.*

The prophetic Word of God is even more sure than his own personal experience.

1. Peter is saying, the Word of God is more sure than our eyes, our ears, or our testimony
2. 1 John 1:1-3 *What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life-- 2 and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us-- 3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ*
3. This is true. We saw...we heard...we touched, and experienced, but the prophetic word is more sure.

This is something you have to understand!

1. There is a constant effort to discredit the Bible...but the Bible is true, even if it conflicts what we presently see with our eyes, hear with our ears, or experience in our lives.
  2. If the Bible says blue is really green...your eyes may tell your brain that blue is blue, but you better go with the Bible
    - a. You might say, that is dumb.
    - b. Well, my eyes have played tricks on me before, but God's Word has proven faithful
- At a time when science taught that the earth sat on a foundation of either a large animal or a giant (1500 B.C.), the Bible said in Job 26:7, "*He hangs the earth upon nothing.*"
  - The Bible also tells us in Isaiah 40:22 that the earth is round. "*It is He who sits upon the circle of the earth.*" Secular man discovered this about 2400 years later.
  - God told Abraham in Genesis 17:12 that on the 8th day newborn males were to be circumcised. In 1935, "Vitamin K" was named as the factor in foods which help prevent hemorrhaging. We now know that it is only on the 5th through the 7th days of the newborn male's life that Vitamin K begins to be produced. It is only on the 8th day that the blood clotting element is above 100%.
  - In 1847, a physician in a Vienna hospital, discovered that deadly infections were spread among patients by doctors who failed to wash their hands between examinations.
    1. He was actually ridiculed and ostracized by his colleagues, and it wasn't until decades later that doctors began to be convinced!
    2. The Levitical priests were instructed to wash their hands, garments, and more as they avoided becoming unclean...and spreading diseases like leprosy and other illnesses.

What is the point? The point is... If the Bible says blue is really green...your eyes may tell your brain that blue is blue, the scientist may agree, the doctor might approve, but you better go with the Bible.

This book is where we must get, not only our sermons from, but our worldview, and culture!

1. When confronted with the challenges of our day related to marriage, gender, entertainment standards, etc. we must begin and end with the Bible. What does the Bible say about that?
2. When confronted with decisions related to education, college, and careers, we must begin and end with the Bible. What does the Bible say about that?
3. When confronted with clothing style and choice, entertainment preferences, and stewardship of time and resources, we must begin and end with the Bible. What does the Bible say about that?

It is sure!

### **III. The Inspiration of the Holy Spirit v20-21**

*20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*

The writers were carried along by the Holy Spirit like a sailing ship is carried along by the wind.

1. For Peter, it was as if the writers of Scripture raised their spiritual sails and allowed the Spirit to fill them with His powerful breath of revelation as they penned His divine words.
2. This is inspiration
3. *Inspiration can be defined as the mysterious process by which God worked through human writers, employing their individual personalities and styles to produce divinely authoritative and innerant writings.* Norman Geisler

#### 2 Timothy 3:16-17

*16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

This book is inspired by the Holy Spirit of God...penned by Him through His chosen vessels.

1. This book was written over a period of 1500 years by over 40 different authors from all different walks of life.
2. It was written by those 40+ men on 3 separate continents (Africa, Asia, and Europe) in 3 different languages (Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic) and yet in spite of its diversity, it all comes together to tell one story of how God chose to redeem a people for Himself.

*and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

God's Word is sufficient!

1. It is sufficient to instruct you, correct you, and train you for righteous church life.
2. It is sufficient to instruct you, correct you, and train you for righteous family life.
3. It is sufficient to instruct you, correct you, and train you for righteous decisions of every kind.
4. It is sufficient to adequately equip you for every good work that there is! This ONE BOOK!

Is Scripture the first place you go to when you need counsel, guidance, direction, or answers? It has to be if the church is to flourish into the future of this 21st century!

**Invitation:**

Now, some of you might have been looking for something more to convince you to surrender your all, embrace the gospel, and follow Christ: give me a sign, a miracle, something!

1. God's word is sufficient to awaken and regenerate hearts!
2. The Bible is even more convincing than the dead resurrecting from the grave!
3. Luke 16:19-31
  - a. That must have been an exaggeration.
  - b. John 12:9-11 *When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 10 So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, 11 because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.*

If God's Word is not enough for you....nothing will be. Believe it today.