

Attributes of the Bible: Necessary and Sufficient

I. NECESSITY – WHY DO I NEED THE SCRIPTURES?

John 6:68

“Although the light of nature and the words of creation and providence do so far manifest the goodness, wisdom, and power of God, as to leave men inexcusable; yet are they not sufficient to give that knowledge of God, and of his will, which is necessary unto salvation.”

~ Westminster Confession of Faith

1 Corinthians 2:1-13

- Who is the ‘we’ of v.12?
- What does it mean to be ‘spiritual’?
- What is the purpose of this revelation?

Summarizing the ‘necessary for what?’ question:

“The necessity of Scripture means that the Bible is necessary for knowing the gospel [Rom. 10:13-17], for maintaining spiritual life [Matt. 4:4; 1 Pet. 2:2], and for knowing God’s will [Deut. 29:29], but is not necessary for knowing that God exists [Ps. 19:1; Acts 14:6-7; Rom. 1:19-21] or for knowing something about God’s character and moral laws [Rom. 1:32; 2:14-15].”

~ Wayne Grudem

II. SUFFICIENCY – DO I NEED MORE THAN THE SCRIPTURES?

“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.”

~ Wayne Grudem

2 Timothy 3:17

Hebrews 1:1-3

“Scripture is God’s testimony to the redemption he has accomplished for us. Once that redemption is finished, and the apostolic testimony to it is finished, the Scriptures are complete, and we should expect no more additions to them.”

~ John Frame

“There are no more words of God spoken to us at all today except the words of Scripture.”

~ J. I. Packer

III. FOUR AMAZING AND PRACTICAL ATTRIBUTES

“These doctrines are eminently practical. If the Bible is everything we’ve seen, then why wouldn’t we read it, study it, memorize it, and teach it to others? Why would we build our churches on the shallow soil of pragmatic philosophy? Why would we counsel with the leftovers of worldly wisdom? Why would we look first to the beauty of mountains or to the echo chamber of the self in our moments of deepest pain and crisis? Why would we infuse our worship services with so little Scripture? Why would we sing songs bereft of biblical substance? Why would we prostrate the word of God to even the smartest-sounding words of men?”

~ DeYoung

IV. IMPLICATIONS – FOR DISCUSSION

- What would it mean for you and for us to believe that the Bible is really necessary?
 - What would it mean for you and for us to believe that the Bible is truly sufficient?
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Spring Equip Classes 2019

The Bible: The Word of God for the People of God

(This course runs for 9 weeks from April 7 to June 16, excluding Easter Sunday and Memorial Day weekend.)

A general outline of the course:

- I. Introduction: *Rejoicing in God and His Word*
- II. What is the Bible? (dealing with doctrinal issues)
 - a. *God’s Word Written: Inspiration & Inerrancy*
 - b. *Carried Along by the Holy Spirit: Human Authorship*
 - c. *Attributes of the Bible: Authoritative & Clear*
 - d. *Attributes of the Bible: Necessary & Sufficient*
- III. Can I really trust the Bible? (dealing with apologetic issues)
 - a. *Copies of Copies of Copies?*
 - b. *Why These Books and Not Those?*
 - c. *True Events from Trustworthy People?*
 - d. *Taking the Resurrected Jesus at His Word*

For how to better study, interpret, and disciple others with the Bible, join us for our upcoming *Impact* workshops:

- June 8 for men – *Fundamentals of Reading the Bible Well*
 - June 21 & 22 for women
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Resources used for the structure and content of this course:

- Craig Blomberg, *Can We Still Believe the Bible?*
- F.F. Bruce, *The Canon of Scripture*
- F.F. Bruce, *The NT Documents: Are They Reliable?*
- Kevin DeYoung, *Taking God at His Word*
- Greg Gilbert, *Why Trust the Bible?*
- Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*
- Walter Kaiser, *The OT Documents*
- Michael Kruger, *Canon Revisited*
- J.I. Packer, *'Fundamentalism' and the Word of God*
- Derek Thomas, *The Bible*
- B.B. Warfield, *The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible*
- Paul Wegner, *The Journey from Texts to Translations*