

God Wrote a Book: The Bible is Sufficient

Opening Discussion

1. How was the Bible part of your salvation experience?
2. Can you share a time biblical preaching was catalytic for your spiritual growth?
3. How has faithful biblical preaching shaped you more into the image of Jesus over years and decades?
4. Have you witnessed preaching that was not deeply biblical? How does that impact a church?

The Bible is sufficient. It contains all we need for faith in faith in Jesus, eternal salvation, and obedience to God.

“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 everything we need God to tell us for salvation, for trusting him perfectly, and for obeying him perfectly.” **Wayne Grudem**

From childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:15-17

1. The Bible is sufficient for faith in Jesus.
2. The Bible is sufficient for eternal salvation.
3. The Bible is sufficient for obedience to God.

Practical Application:.

- The sufficiency of Scripture does not mean truth cannot be found outside of the Bible.
- We must not hold any other source of truth as equal in authority with Scripture.
- When we have questions about God, faith, salvation, or anything related to spiritual matters, we must turn to Scripture.
- We must be careful not to add to Scripture.

You shall not add to the word that I command you. **Deuteronomy 4:2**

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

Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar. **Proverbs 30:5-6**

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, 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. **Revelation 22:18-19**

- Obvious examples of adding to Scripture: The Gnostic Gospels, The Quran, The Book of Mormon
- Less obvious examples of adding to Scripture:
 - Overemphasizing background information or sanctified imagination
 - Using a verse or passage as a springboard for an unrelated topic
 - Making something other than Scripture the basis for teaching or preaching or witnessing
 - Taking a me, others, God approach to Scripture (What this means to me is . . .)
 - Misapplying a passage of Scripture
- We should be content and overjoyed with Scripture as God's revelation to us.

For Further Study:

- Chapter 6 Recording, Wayne Grudem, “Systematic Theology (MP3 Lecture Series) | Monergism,” accessed November 15, 2023, <https://www.monergism.com/systematic-theology-mp3-lecture-series>;
- Wayne Grudem, “The Perspicuity of Scripture,” The Gospel Coalition, accessed November 15, 2023, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/themelios/article/the-perspicuity-of-scripture/>.