



## SCRIPTURE'S NECESSITY

"The necessity of Scripture means that the Bible *is necessary* for knowing the gospel, for maintaining spiritual life, and for knowing God's will, but *is not necessary* for knowing that God exists or for knowing something about God's character and moral laws." (Wayne A. Grudem, Systematic Theology, pg. 116)

### A. The Bible is Necessary For...

#### I. Knowledge of the \_\_\_\_\_

For, "everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved." But how are men to call upon him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher?... So faith comes from what is heard and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ.

Rom 10:13-17

#### II. Maintaining \_\_\_\_\_

Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God

Matt 4:4

#### III. \_\_\_\_\_ Knowledge of God's \_\_\_\_\_

The secret things belong to the LORD our God; but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children for ever that we may do all the words of this law

Deut 29:29

#### IV. Certainty of \_\_\_\_\_ Knowledge

In fact, in one sense, it can be argued that the Bible is necessary for certain knowledge about ANYTHING. A philosopher might argue as follows: The fact that we do not know everything requires us to be uncertain about everything we do claim to know... However, God knows all facts that ever have been or ever will be. (Wayne A. Grudem, Systematic Theology, pg. 120)

## B. The Bible is NOT Necessary For...

### I. Knowing that God \_\_\_\_\_

For what can be known about God is plain to them because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse; for although they knew God they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking and their senseless minds were darkened.

Rom 1:19-21

### II. Knowing something about God's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

When Gentiles who have not the law do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them ..."

Rom 2:14-15

**Without the Bible, \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge of God is possible, even if it is not absolutely \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge.**

## C. General and Special Revelation

The knowledge of God's existence, character, and moral law, which comes through creation to all humanity, is often called "general revelation" (because it comes to all people generally). General revelation comes through observing nature, through seeing God's directing influence in history, and through an inner sense of God's existence and his laws that he has placed inside every person.

General revelation is distinct from "special revelation" which refers to God's words addressed to specific people, such as the words of the Bible, the words of the Old Testament prophets and New Testament apostles, and the words of God spoken in personal address, such as at Mount Sinai or at the baptism of Jesus.

Scripture nowhere indicates that people can know the gospel, or the way of salvation through such general revelation. They may know that God exists, that he is their Creator, that they owe him obedience, and that they have sinned against him. But how the holiness and justice of God can ever be reconciled with his willingness to forgive sins is a mystery that has never been solved by any religion apart from the Bible. This fact, which seems commonplace to the Christian ear, should not lose its wonder for us: It never could have been conceived by man alone apart from God's special, verbal revelation" (Wayne A. Grudem, Systematic Theology, pg. 120)

### Prayer Response

"Thank you for your Word...without it, we \_\_\_\_\_"  
[e.g. would never have called upon your name...would starve....]

## SCRIPTURE'S SUFFICIENCY

“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”  
(Grudem, Systematic Theology, p.127)

### A. Sufficient to make us \_\_\_\_\_

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 Tim 3:16-17

### B. Sufficient for each stage of \_\_\_\_\_ history

The secret things belong to the LORD our God; but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

Deut 29:29

## C. Practical Applications

### I. ENCOURAGEMENT: God's will can be \_\_\_\_\_ in Scripture

The sufficiency of Scripture gives us confidence that we will be able to find what God requires us to think or to do in these areas.

(Grudem, Systematic Theology, p.128-129)

### II. WARNING: Don't \_\_\_\_\_ to Scripture...

a) Any other \_\_\_\_\_

E.g. Book of Mormons, “Science and Health with a Key to the Scriptures”, Apocrypha, Tradition

b) Any other \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ revelation

Examples:

- Misplaced confidence: “I must do \_\_\_\_\_ because God is just “leading” me in that direction. Therefore, I must obey”
- Unfounded Paralysis: “I need God to show me a sign...I'm afraid I'm going to step outside of his will”

I will keep your law continually,  
for ever and ever;  
and I shall walk at liberty,  
for I have sought your precepts...  
Great peace have those who love your law;  
nothing can make them stumble.

Psalm 119:44-45, 165

c) Any other \_\_\_\_\_, requirements or \_\_\_\_\_

E.g. birth control, style of worship

### III. Encouragement: Be \_\_\_\_\_ with Scripture

“The sufficiency of Scripture reminds us that in our doctrinal and ethical teaching we should emphasize what Scripture emphasizes and be content with what God has told us in Scripture.” (Grudem, Bible Doctrine, p.61)

#### Prayer Response

“Your word is enough to \_\_\_\_\_” [e.g. give me guidance...mature me...]

“Help me remember this even when \_\_\_\_\_” [e.g. I lose faith....I get anxious...]