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NECESSITY OF SCRIPTURE

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The Necessity of Scripture

Although all of mankind is accountable to God's authority and judgment based on general revelation, the necessity of Scripture asserts man's need for special revelation to savingly understand who God is, our relationship to Him, and how we can experience salvation in and through Christ, made known in the Scriptures. General revelation describes the way that God has revealed Himself to all through creation (MacArthur, 72). This is seen by the Psalmist's statement that, "the heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork" (Ps. 19:1). Additionally, humanity's sense of morality and sense of eternity is a witness to the fact that God has revealed himself to us (Ecclesiastes 3:11). The Apostle Paul states, "For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them" (Rom. 2:14-15). However, general revelation is limited in its ability to reveal God's characteristics, His will, and our standing before Him. Therefore, it is impossible that salvation would come from general revelation alone (Rom. 10:5-17). Out of Christ's perfect love for us, we have been provided with the infallible, inerrant Scriptures that are, "profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness" (2 Tim. 3:16). The apostle Paul affirms that Scripture is a requirement to be, "[made] wise for salvation" in his writings to Timothy, explaining that without the special revelation of Scripture, man's general knowledge of God would have no salvific or sanctifying effect (2 Tim. 3:15). Moreover, Dr. John Macarthur states that special revelation accomplished three primary purposes, "He [revealed Himself] so that fallen humans would know the fullness of God, how to be redeemed from God's wrath towards sinners, and how to live and please God" (MacArthur, 73).



The Necessity of Scripture

The necessity of Scripture is self-evident, as it is a specific, written testimony of God's divine revelation to men.

God has used four forms of special revelation to reveal Himself including direct acts, dreams and visions, the incarnation of Christ, and Scripture (MacArthur, 74). The Bible is the means God uses at this point in redemptive history, to reveal Himself, and His saving work. "Hence, given the moral universe God created, with its rules for a proper relation to him, it was and is necessary for God to give us Scripture" (John Feinberg). "How then will they call on 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 someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news" (Romans 10:14-15). The special revelation of the Word of God is necessary for justification and sanctification for those whom He has called and who call on Him (Rom 8.30-32; 10:14-18). The Scriptures are essential for salvation and a saving knowledge of God, in Christ.