GROVE BIBLE

SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE

BIBLIOLOGY PAPER





The Sufficiency of Scripture

The doctrine of the Sufficiency of Scripture upholds that the Word of God is adequate to equip every believer in living out the Christian life. The sufficiency of scripture undergirds sola Scriptura, that scripture alone is the highest authority. Because Scripture is sufficient, it keeps tradition in its place[1], we do not add or subtract from it, we expect it is relevant for all of life, and it invites us to be in God's Word to read and hear the words of God[2]. "The written Word is sufficient for the moral and spiritual needs of individuals and the Church. It involves the denial that there is, alongside of Scripture, an unwritten Word of God of equal or even superior authority."

The Word of God was written for our sake, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we may have hope (Rom 4:23-24; Rom 15:4). It speaks to its own sufficiency as a light to the believer's path, and Peter attests that the Word of God is more reliable than even his own experience (Ps 19:7-11; Ps 119:105; 2 Pet 1:19-20), equipping the believer in every good thing to do His will, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever (2 TIm 3:17; Heb 13:21).

Sufficient to Lead to Salvation

- The Word of God is able to give wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ (2 Tim 3:14-15).
- Scripture is given to parents to instruct their children in the ways of the Lord (Deut 6:6-7).[3]

Sufficient for Sanctification (2 Tim 3:16,17)

- Scripture is Sufficient for Teaching. Giving instruction for what to believe concerning God and what duty God requires of Man (Matt 28:18-20; Luke 24:27, 44; John 5:39, 20:31; Rom 10:17; 2 Tim 1:13).



The Sufficiency of Scripture

Sufficient for Reproof

- Admonishment, in love, that highlights what the believer is to refrain from and take off (Col 3:9; Heb 4:12-13).

Sufficient for Correction

- Accompanies reproof for the purpose of bringing a believer back to a right alignment with God's Word, and what to put on (Eph 4:20-24; Col 3:10-11).

Sufficient for Training in Righteousness

- Putting into practice God's word in our lives (application) (Eph 4:25-32).

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1. DeYoung, Kevin. Taking God at His Word. Crossway, pp. 52-55.
2. Berkhof, Louis. Manual of Christian Doctrine. WM. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, p. 49.
3. The Westminster Shorter Catechism.