

The Sufficiency of Scripture

2 Tim. 3:16-17

August 09, 2026

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 2 Tim. 3:16-17

The Sufficiency of Scripture means that Scripture contains 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 and for obeying Him.

Matthew Henry—*Divine revelation, as it now stands in the written word, is not only pure truth without mixture, but entire truth without deficiency. This word of truth should be the outward and ordinary means of our sanctification. It is the seed of the new birth, and the food of the new life.*

St. Augustine—*In those teachings which are clearly based on the Scriptures are found all that concerns faith and the conduct of life.*

The Westminster Confession of Faith (1646) -- The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man's salvation, faith in life, is either expressly set down in Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men.

The New Hampshire Baptist confession (1833)—*We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain until the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried. Deut. 4:2; 1 Pet. 1:23; 1 Tim. 3:15.*

1. Scripture is sufficient for learning all that God has said on particular topics and through Scripture we can find answers to our questions (2 Pet. 1:3-4).

Through a proper study of the Bible, it is possible to find all the biblical passages that are relevant to specific areas such as: salvation, marriage, parenting, divorce, and the Christian's conduct at work or at home. Scripture alone is sufficient to equip us for "every good work," and to walk in its ways is to be "blameless" in God's sight.

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Ps. 119:1; Ps. 119:160

1 Cor. 6:9-11

2. The amount of Scripture given was sufficient at each stage of redemptive history (Deut. 29:29). God gave His people His Word at each period of redemptive history, fully supplying what they needed in order to honor and obey Him. Whenever they needed further instruction God revealed it, no more and no less.

Jn. 21:25

Prov. 30:5-6

- We should be encouraged that everything God wants to tell us about particular subjects or issues is to be found in Scripture.
- We are to add nothing to Scripture, and we are to consider no other writings of equal value to Scripture. **Rev. 22:18-19**
- God does not require us to believe anything about Himself or His redemptive work that isn't found in Scripture. **John 3:16-21. 1 Cor. 15:3-4; Rom. 1:16-17; Rom. 10:9-10, 13**
- No modern revelations from God are to be placed on a level equal to Scripture's authority.
- Nothing is sin that is not forbidden by Scripture either explicitly or by implication. **Ps. 119:1; 1 Cor. 10:31**
- Nothing is required by God that is not commanded in Scripture. **Ps. 119:165**
- We should emphasize what Scripture emphasizes and be content with what God has told us in Scripture (**Deut. 29:29**).

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Charles Spurgeon—*Why, the Book has wrestled with me; the Book has smitten me; the Book has comforted me; the Book has smiled on me; the Book has frowned on me; the Book has clasped my hand; the Book has warmed my heart. The Book weeps with me and sings with me; it whispers to me, and it preaches to me; it maps my way, and holds up my goings; it is the Young Man's Best Companion, and is still my morning and evening Chaplain.*

Conclusion: Scripture is enough. The Scriptures are sufficient for salvation, Christian living and doing God's will. By God's grace, let us walk in the Law of the Lord for those who walk in this way are truly blessed (**Ps. 119:1**).

Discussion Questions

- 1. What does it mean to believe the Scriptures are sufficient for one's life and faith formation?**
- 2. Commentator Matthew Henry called scripture 'the seed for new birth & food of the new life.' Explain the value of viewing Scripture this way.**
- 3. How does practicing faith in the sufficiency of Scripture protect our lives?**
- 4. How would your life look different or the same if you fully embrace this view of God's Word?**
- 5. Pray for each other.**