

Doctrine of the Bible

The Sufficiency of Scripture

1. Proposition. The Scripture alone is a sufficient guide for our life in matters of beliefs and behaviour.
 - *2 Peter 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:*
2. Because the Bible is the mirror of God's Word which reflects back on us, individuals should pay attention to what is being said for the Word of God works on us, and in us.
3. Modern man wants to live in light of contemporary science and philosophy, and apart from the Bible. There is suspicion about a Book which claims to have all the answers to life.
 - Modern philosophy believes in the autonomy of human reasoning.
 - Modern science teaches the evolution of man from a common ancestry with the animals.
4. The world is suspicious of the Bible because it does not want an ultimate authority in life.
5. The world is suspicious of the Bible because it does not want to leave any voices out. Inclusiveness is a compelling moral principle in the modern world. Pluralism believes it is better to hear from many voices, rather than one voice, the voice of God.
6. The power of the world upon the church is not readily realized, for many Christians live life as if the Bible is not sufficient, or relevant. But the Bible can tell us how to live. The Bible will tell individuals
 - whom to marry.
 - how to rear children.
 - how to live.
 - how to treat neighbors.
 - how to govern society.
7. There is not an area of life and godliness that the Bible does not sufficiently address.
8. The Lord has given to believers the precious blood of Christ, and He Has given to the church precious promises.
 - *1 Peter 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*

- *2 Peter 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*
9. The promises of God are given in order to deliver the soul from moral corruption, and in order for the Christian to love one another, which is a characteristic of sanctification.
10. When Jesus prayed for the sanctification of His people in John 17, Peter was listening.
- *John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*
 - *1 Peter 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: 23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. 24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: 25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.*
11. It is the will of the Lord that there be “*unfeigned love*” of the brethren, and that there be a “*pure heart.*” But how does such a love, how does such a life happen?
12. They happen through the new birth, and the abiding Word of God, which is incorruptible and will never perish. With these words in v. 24, the apostle Peter quotes from Isaiah the prophet.
- *Isaiah 40:6 The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: 7 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. 8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.*
13. Those who believe in the sufficiency of Scripture, those who obey its instructions, find comfort in the Bible. The gospel is a comforting message.
14. Peter was familiar with the comforting message of gospel through the ministry of Christ, and through The Book of Comfort he had read, consisting of the chapters in Isaiah 40-66. Peter had read that “*the Word of our God shall stand for ever*”.
- *Isaiah 40:1 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.*
 - *Isaiah 40:6 The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: 7 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. 8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.*

Peter had read about the good news, he knew about the “*good tidings*” which was heralded to the people of God through the prophet Isaiah.

- *Isaiah 40:9 O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! 10 Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. 11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.*

Special Note.

In context, Isaiah was anticipating the Babylonian Exile which the people would yet endure for breaking Covenant with God. Later, Daniel would read the prophet of Isaiah, Daniel would study the prophet Jeremiah and discover the promises of the Lord of a restoration to the Land of Promise. The Jews were going home. But how? How would they go home? It is not easy for a large group of people to cross a dessert. How would that happen? It would happen by the Lord's "*strong hand.*" The Lord is sufficient.

15. People need to hear about, and believe in, the sufficiency of the Scripture. People need the Lord.