

The sufficiency of scripture

As Christians, it is said that we only need the Bible as our source of information about God, but sometimes we forget exactly what that means.

We have people that we listen to and learn from. We might have study books that we use to guide our thoughts. But what does it mean to see scripture as sufficient?

There are also additional things that are difficult for us to agree with, or are completely contradictory to what we typically believe. There are those that claim to be prophets, or some will tell us we're missing books of scripture. How do we look at that and reconcile it with the sufficiency of scripture?

This lesson will hopefully give some answers.

Keeping that in mind, there is a caveat here. It is important for us as believers to read and understand the word, but showing these passages to an unbeliever won't necessarily convert them. It might take looking at other additional evidence for the authenticity and trustworthiness of the recorded message to bring someone to the conclusion that they too only need the Bible, but that is outside the scope of this lesson.

Hebrews 1.1-2

The revelation we have is from the Son of God. The last days are now.

Jeremiah 31.27-40

Jeremiah is preaching about a new covenant coming in the wake of Jerusalem's mourning. This new covenant will be sufficient and permanent to all.

Heb 8.1-7

Introduces a large quotation of Jeremiah 31 connecting Christ as mediator, high priest, and administrator of the new covenant

Deuteronomy 18.15-19

This passage reaffirms the point that something greater was to come. His word is the word of God.

Acts 3.20-23

Again, this is a New Testament sharing of an Old Testament to connect it to Christ.

John 14.26

The Holy Spirit will teach the word to the apostles. A word bearing all things.

John 16.13

All things will come from the Holy Spirit. The truth comes from it. Again, this is to the apostles.

1 Corinthians 2.7-10

This knowledge preached by Paul and the apostles was meant to be revealed in full at a later time. Not at the beginning of creation. God revealed to us what we needed to know.

This goes back to the idea of why we have what books we have in the Bible. There's a connection to the provenance of God providing the knowledge we need to know.

2 Timothy 3.13-17

Knowledge of the word made Timothy wise. This word can also do many things. Those things can't happen if we don't understand the word.

The whole word of God is complete. Perfect. We need nothing else.

1 Corinthians 13.8-13

The time of prophecy and spiritual gifts would eventually end. Once knowledge is fully revealed. The complete word of God would remove the need for spiritual gifts that teach his message.

Jude 3

The message of salvation is given once for all. We have that message. We then communicate that message to others.

Galatians 1.6-10

There would be no different message than what had been preached. Even from Angels and Apostles. The gospel had already peached.

Again, if we look at different books people say belong in the Bible, or listen to people that claim to be messengers of God, we know it can't be true if the message is different than what's already been revealed.

Revelation 22.18

The word of God is unalterable. Anyone that attempts to change it will be punished.

Application

The Bible tells us it is sufficient. We know it's not exhaustive on every detail we'd like to know, but that shouldn't discourage us from trusting what we have. It's a divine standard for every way of the Christian life.