

GOD'S SUFFICIENT WORDS

THE BIBLE DOCTRINE OF SUFFICIENCY

*"That the man of God may be perfect,
thoroughly furnished unto all good works."*

~ 2 Timothy 3:17

1. Doctrine of Sufficiency

- a. Canon: God inspired text recognized as authoritative, complete, sufficient, perfect
- b. Not merely that God stopped adding books; what he wrote was enough.
- c. Sufficient ~*def.* To be enough; qualified; capable; able to fulfill the purpose
- d. The Bible doctrine of the sufficiency of Scripture:
 - i. 2 Tim 3:15 - "*which are able*" – The scriptures are doing work here
 - ii. 3:16 - "*all scripture*" – the nature (of God) and function (for profit)
 - iii. 3:17 - "*may be perfect*" – the necessary purpose scripture performs

2. The Controversy

- a. This was the major Catholic/Protestant Reformation battle: sola scriptura
 - i. Scripture is the final and only infallible authority on truth
 - ii. The Bible alone is the sufficient means for God to work in a believer
- b. Text issues: Bible translations created during Reformation due to this doctrine.
 - i. 3:16 - *every vs. all* – every = each one; all = the whole group; entire; alone
 - ii. "*is*" – Does it define all or exclude some (italic affecting major doctrine)
 - iii. 3:17 – "*perfect*" removed/changed which diminishes the idea of sufficiency
- c. The idea: "*Unless I am convinced by the testimony of Scripture...*" "chapter & verse"
 - i. Sola scriptura = Scripture alone, Bible alone; Don't add anything... Deu 4:2
 - 1. *e.g.* Magisterium, Tradition, experience, nature, progress, more Bible
 - ii. Tota scriptura = wholly scripture; every word; Don't subtract anything...
 - 1. *e.g.* books, testaments, verses, words, complexity, paraphrase
- d. The support: De 8:3, Jo 1:7-8, Ps 1:2, Mk 7:7-9, Ac 17:11, 1Co 4:6, 2Ti 2:15
 - i. Church (pillar/ground) is subject to what is written (scripture) 1Tim 3:14-15

3. The Power of God in Scripture

- a. Scripture is not all revelation, every science, affection, dwelling place, tool, authority
- b. It has creative power – Gen 1:3, Psa 33:6, Heb 11:3, Titus 3:5
- c. It has the power to judge – John 12:48; Rom 2:16, Heb 4:12
- d. It has the power to convict – James 2:9; Rom 3:19-20, 1:16
- e. It has power to deliver from sin and death – Rom 6:9, 14
- f. It is more powerful than the wisdom of the world – 1 Cor 1:18, 1:24-25
- g. It is more powerful than the power of darkness – Col 1:13
- h. No greater/higher power we need than what comes from these words -Jn 6:68

4. The Authority of Scripture

- a. Scripture is not all revelation, every science, affection, dwelling place, tool, authority
- b. The scriptures are final authority because they are God's words – 2 Pet 1:20-21
- c. Jesus spoke authoritatively the words of God – John 3:34, 5:30, 5:37-38, 12:48-50
- d. When he spoke authoritatively people were astonished - Mark 1:21-22
- e. They asked, "what new doctrine is this?", but it wasn't new – Mark 1:27
- f. We have God's words; we can speak with authority when we speak scripture.
- g. Speak, exhort, rebuke with all authority - Titus 2:15, Col 2:9-10, 3:16
- h. With a Bible (complete, sufficient, perfect) men can find truth of God for themselves