

Systematic Theology

Doctrine of Scripture, Part 2

2.3. The Doctrine of the Authority of Scripture

Definition: The authority of Scripture means that all the words in Scripture are God's words in such a way that to _____ or _____ any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God.

Key Scripture: [Deut 30:15-18](#); [Matt 5:17-18](#); [1 Cor 2:10-13](#); [1 Thess 2:13](#); [4:2](#); [2 Thess 2:15](#); [3:14](#); [2 Pet 3:15-16](#)

Scripture is authoritative because it is _____. [2 Tim 3:16-17](#); [2 Pet 1:21](#)

[Deut 13:4](#) "You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him."

Possible Errors:

1. Rejection of the _____ of Scripture.
2. The neglect or denial of _____.

2.4. The Doctrine of the Necessity of Scripture

Definition: The necessity of Scripture means that the Bible is essential for knowing the way of _____, for progressing in _____, and for discerning God's will.

Key Scripture: [Matt 4:4](#); [Rom 10:13-17](#); [1 Pet 2:1-3](#)

The Bible is necessary for knowledge of the _____.

[Rom 10:13-17](#) "13 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." 14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? ... 17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

The Bible is necessary for growing in _____.

[Matt 4:4](#) "... 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

The Bible is necessary for certain knowledge of God's will.

[Deut 29:29](#) "29 "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."

2.5. The Doctrine of the Sufficiency of Scripture

Definition: The sufficiency of Scripture means that the Scripture contained 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 _____ him perfectly, and for obeying him perfectly.

Key Scripture: [Deut 4:2](#); [Psalm 19:7-11](#); [Pro 30:6](#); [2 Tim 3:15-17](#); [Rev 22:18-19](#)

At any given time in redemptive history, Scripture contained all the words He _____ His people to have.

God has not spoken any words which He requires His people to _____ or obey other than those we have in the Bible.

[2 Tim 3:15](#) "... the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus..."

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

Possible Errors:

1. Emphasis on the Spirit of God to the neglect or dismissal of the _____ of God.
2. Emphasis on the Word of God to the neglect or dismissal of the _____ of God.
3. Other sources usurping the supreme _____ of Scripture.

2.6. The Doctrine of the Clarity of Scripture

Definition: Scripture is written in such a way that it can be _____ by God's people.

Key Scripture: [Deut 29:29](#); [30:11-14](#); [31:9-13](#); [Neh 8](#); [Acts 17:10-12](#); [Rom 4:22-24](#); [10:6-10](#); [15:4](#); [1 Cor 2:14-16](#); [10:6-11](#); [1 Tim 4:13](#); [1 Pet 2:1-3](#)

The only prerequisite to understand the Bible is the _____ ability to read or understand communication.

[Deut 31:9-12](#) "...At the end of every seven years...you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing. Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, that they may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law..."

"Clarity" does not equal "_____ to understand."

[2 Peter 3:16](#) "...There are some things in them that are hard to understand..."

We are helped by the _____ of the Holy Spirit, whereby He renders the Word more fully understandable.

[1 Cor 2:12-13](#) “12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. 13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.”

Possible Errors:

1. Leaving _____ of the Bible to the “professionals.”
2. Laziness or discouragement in personal Bible _____.

2.7. The Doctrine of the Canonicity of Scripture

Definition: The canon of Scripture, or list of which writings belong in the inspired Word of God, consists of _____ books.

Key Scripture: [Luke 24:44](#); [2 Tim 3:14-17](#); [2 Pet 3:15-16](#); [Rev 22:18](#)

Canon originally meant “measuring rod,” and later came to mean “norm” or _____.

2.7.1. *The Old Testament Canon*

[Luke 24:44](#) “44 Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.””

The Law (_____): Genesis, Exodus, Number, Leviticus, Deuteronomy

The Prophets: Joshua, Judges/Ruth, Samuel, Kings, Jeremiah/Lamentations, Ezekiel, Isaiah, the Minor Prophets (“The Twelve”), Job, Daniel, Ezra/Nehemiah, Chronicles, Esther

The Writings: Psalms (four books), Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

2.7.2. *The New Testament Canon*

_____ : written by or tied closely to an apostle

_____ : widely, if not universally, recognized as authoritative by the churches

_____ : not contradicting any other canonical book or doctrine

Rough timeline of Canonization:

- NT books written 45-100 AD.
- Collected and read in churches 90-200 AD.
- Examined and compared with spurious writings 200-300 AD.
- Complete agreement obtained 300-400 AD.

2.7.3. *Catholicism and the Canon*

Two major points of difference between the Protestant churches and the Roman Catholic Church regarding canonicity:

1. Source of _____.
2. _____ of the canon itself.
 - a. The _____ consists of books written by the Jews during the inter-testamental period (430 BC - 40AD)
 - b. The Jews themselves never included these writings in their canon.
 - c. The Roman Catholic Church did not officially recognize the Apocryphal books as canonical until the Council of _____ in 1546.

How should we live?

Authority

Necessity

Sufficiency

Clarity

Canonicity