

The Sufficiency of Scripture

A Message of Hope
February 14, 2016

Overview

- Why are we unhappy/hopeless/desperate/floundering?
- Introduction to the "Sufficiency of Scripture."
- An application of Sufficiency of Scripture from 2 Peter.
- How are we then transformed?
- A challenge.

What of the human condition?

- What do we observe?
 - Dissatisfaction
 - Fear
 - Alienation
 - Anxiety/Depression
- Why has this happened? (or at least what are we told?)
 - Damaged goods
 - Byproducts of a flawed environment
 - Victims

Fruits of the flesh

- Galatians 5:19-21
- 2 Peter 1-3
- Colossians 3:5-9
- Ephesians 5:3-18
- James 3

Galatians 5:19-21	2 Peter 1-3	Colossians 3:5-9	Ephesians 5:3-18	James 3
Sexual immorality	Gluttony	Sexual immorality	Sexual immorality	
Envy		Envy	Envy	
Jealousy	Sermonizing/teaching passion	Pride		
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Sufficiency of Scripture—some clarifications

- Separate from the topics of authority and inerrancy.
- It does not teach that Scripture is exhaustive in what it reveals to us.
- It does not teach that we are not to have human teachers, or that there are no other legitimate authorities in our lives.
- Fundamentally it represents the fact that God alone is the Lord who has ultimate authority and that Scripture has critical utility in our daily lives.

Biblical Basis for the Sufficiency of Scripture (1)

- Psalm 19:7-11
 - The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Biblical Basis for the Sufficiency of Scripture (2)

- 2 Timothy 3:14-17
 - But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

Biblical Basis for the Sufficiency of Scripture (3)

- 2 Peter 1:20-21
 - ..knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Biblical Basis for the Sufficiency of Scripture (4)

- Hebrews 4:12-13
 - For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

A Look at 2 Peter 1 and the Sufficiency of Scripture

- His divine power has granted to us **all things that pertain to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his **precious and very great promises**, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.—2 Peter 1:3-4

Living and Abiding Word of God

- Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the **living and abiding word of God**; for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, **but the word of the Lord remains forever.**" And this word is the good news that was preached to you.—1 Peter 1:22-25

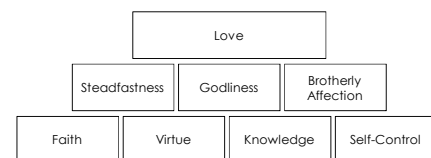
Context of Isaiah 40

- A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, **but the word of our God will stand forever.**—Isaiah 40:6-8
- Now read verses 9-11

How are we to apply this to our lives?

- For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.—2 Peter 1:5-7

Building the Fruits of the Spirit



Growth Process is Normal and Expected

- For if these qualities are yours and are **increasing**, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.—2 Peter 1:8
- Wherever you are at, can you see God working on building the "Fruit of the Spirit wall?"
- Can you see growth looking back on your life?
- Are you facing the same struggles or at least at the same level?

Transformation through the Word

- Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word...—Ephesians 5:25-26
- And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.—2 Corinthians 3:18

A Challenge to Stay the Course

- I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.—John 17:14-17
- So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life,...."John 6:67-68

How do we "stay the course?"

- Feed on the Word
 - Foundationally by hearing a steady diet of solid, expositional teaching.
 - Living your Christian life in the context of the church where we can, "stir up one another to love and good works,"—Heb 10:24
 - Having purified your souls by your **obedience to the truth** for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart....—1 Peter 1:22