
INTERNATIONAL TRAINING AND EQUIPPING MINISTRIES
Institute in the Foundations of Church Leadership
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THE AUTHORITY AND SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE
Basic Lecture 2

INTRODUCTION

- A. Church leaders are being trained using worldly management techniques, not Scripture.
- B. In many churches the focus is more on music and entertaining those in attendance than it is on teaching the Scriptures.
- C. Many Christians are seeking supernatural power, supernatural experiences, ecstatic experiences, miracles, and/or signs rather than the simple teaching of the Bible about godliness, holiness, marriage, honesty, integrity, and righteous living.
- D. Some Christians are telling us that the gospel isn't enough to save someone. They are saying that we need signs, wonders, and miracles if we are going to be effective in evangelism.
- E. Husbands and wives who are looking for a fulfilled marriage very often do not consider what the Bible says about marriage.
- F. Some churches in the world are ignoring what the Bible says about homosexuality and abortion because they believe that the Bible is not a modern book
- G. Psychology is replacing the Bible as the Christian's source of counseling help. Some seminaries and churches are hiring psychologists to do their counseling.

NOTE: The following verses will show that the Bible claims to be sufficient for every spiritual need

I. TRUTH FOUND IN GOD'S WORD IS WHAT SANCTIFIES US (JOHN 17:17)

- A. Definition: Sanctify means separated from sin and joined to God.
- B. Jesus spoke of the total sanctification of the Christian.
- C. The sanctification of the Christian comes from God's truth, the Bible.
- D. It is not the Word of God plus something else that sanctifies us. It is the Word of God alone that sanctifies us.
- E. We don't need the Bible plus human wisdom or human philosophy. We do not need the Bible plus our traditional religions. The Bible is all that we need.

II. GOD'S WORD BENEFITS THOSE WHO LIVE LIKE GOD WANTS (MICAH 2:7)

- A. When we live an obedient life, the Word of God produces good things in our lives.
- B. All of the good that God can give comes to those who live in obedience to the Word of God.

III. GOD'S WORD IS LIVING AND ACTIVE. IT JUDGES THE THOUGHTS AND INTENTIONS OF THE HEART (HEBREWS 4:12)

- A. There is no weapon that is as effective as God's Word.
- B. It penetrates deep into the soul and the spirit of a person.
- C. Some people think "deep problems" need either some deep psychotherapy, the binding of the devil, or the casting out of demons. That is wrong. What they need are the answers from the Bible.

IV. THE BIBLE EXPOSES ALL THINGS (HEBREWS 4:13)

- A. It is sufficient to penetrate the deepest part of a person's soul.
- B. To say that God's Word is not enough to deal with any problem is saying that Scripture is not sufficient.

V. THE PERSON WHO HEARS AND OBEYS THE WORD OF GOD WILL BE BLESSED (LUKE 11:28, JAMES 1:25)

- A. A blessed life is a life of joy, meaning, value, hope, happiness, and fulfillment.
- B. Obedience to the Word of God is the path to a happy, fulfilled, and joyful life.
- C. In James 1:25 the Word of God is referred to as the perfect and royal law. James wrote that the one who obeys it will be blessed.

VII. THE BEREANS SEARCHED THE SCRIPTURES DAILY SEEKING ANSWERS AND VERIFYING WHAT THEY HAD HEARD WAS TRUE (ACTS 17:11)

- A. Saints in Berea received the Word with eagerness and searched the Scriptures daily.
- B. The key to living a life that pleases God is to search the Word of God with a heart that is ready and eager to apply what it says to every area of life.
- C. Unfortunately, when many of us face problems we don't turn to the Scriptures for help. We turn to psychology or some ecstatic or emotional experience.
- D. Yet it is the Word of God that is sufficient for any problem we face.

VIII. LETTING THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL IN YOU RICHLY EFFECTS EVERY AREA OF LIFE (COLOSSIANS 3:16)

- A. The results that come from the Word of Christ dwelling in our lives are listed in Colossians 3:17 – 4:1.
- B. Notice the parallels between the results of being filled with the Word of Christ and being filled with the Holy Spirit.
(Compare Colossians 3:16 – 4:1 with Ephesians 5:18 – 6:4)
 - 1. The results are the same.
 - 2. The results come from the Word and the Spirit working together.
 - 3. There is no mention of any spiritual gift in either list. All of the results relate to our lifestyle.

IX. WE ARE TO STRONGLY DESIRE GOD'S WORD (1 PETER 2:2)

- A. Spiritual growth, spiritual strength, maturity, and becoming more like Jesus are all tied to our desire for the Word of God.
- B. We grow by the Word of God
- C. As we grow, we develop strength to deal with problems and difficulties.
- D. Peter says that believers should desire the Word of God like babies desire milk.

X. THROUGH THE WORD WE GET TO KNOW JESUS (2 PETER 1:3)

- A. "...all things pertaining to life and godliness" come "through the knowledge of Him"
- B. He (Jesus) is revealed through His Word.
- C. All we need for life and godliness is found in His Word and in the knowledge of Him, which also comes from His Word.

XI. ALL OF THE WORD IS PROFITABLE (ACTS 20:20, 27)

- A. Paul presented all that was profitable which is “the whole counsel” or “the whole purpose of God,” that is, the whole Word of God.
- B. Paul commended them to the Word of God’s grace that is able to build them up and build us up. (Acts 20:32)
- C. The Word is all we need. It is profitable. It strengthens.

XII. WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE IS FOUND IN CHRIST AND WE LEARN IT FROM THE WORD (COLOSSIANS 2:3, 4, 7)

- A. Everything we need to know about wisdom and knowledge we find in Christ (v. 3).
- B. Don’t let the world trick or confuse you with enticing words. All wisdom and knowledge is in Christ (v. 4).
- C. We are to be rooted and built up in Him (v. 7).
- D. All treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found in Christ, not in the world. Christ is revealed in the Word of God.
- E. Stay away from human wisdom, human knowledge, and human philosophy. Focus on Christ as He is revealed in the Word of God.

XIII. WHEN THE WORD OF GOD IS RECEIVED AS THE WORD OF GOD, IT WILL TRANSFORM LIVES (1 THESSALONIANS 2:11-13 -especially v. 13)

- A. Paul exhorted and admonished them as a father would. (v. 11).
- B. He wanted them to walk (live) worthy of being in God’s family (v. 12).
- C. They received the Word of God as the Word of God (not the word of men). This is how we should receive it also. (v. 13a).
- D. The Word of God performs its work in those who believe. (v. 13b).

XV. THE WORD WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A CONSTANT PART OF DAILY LIFE IN ISRAEL (DEUTERONOMY 6:4-7)

- A. Talk about it all day long.
- B. Bind it on your foreheads (think about it), the back of your hands (look at it).
- C. Teach it to your children.
- D. Write it on your door (so you see it every time you enter the world).
- E. This is the key to living.

XVI. THE WORD OF GOD IS SUFFICIENT TO BRING SOMEONE TO REPENTANCE (LUKE 16:28-29)

- A. They didn’t need someone to come back from the dead to warn them to repent, they had Moses and the prophets. (i.e. They had the Word of God).
- B. The Word of God is sufficient to bring someone to repentance.
- C. If they are not convinced by the Word of God, they won’t be convinced by someone coming back from the dead.
- D. If they are not convinced by the Word, they won’t be convinced by signs and wonders.

XVII. THE SCRIPTURE IS SUFFICIENT (2 TIMOTHY 3:15-17)

- A. From childhood Timothy knew the Holy Scriptures which are ABLE to make you wise to salvation. The Scriptures are sufficient to save (v. 15).

- B. All Scripture is inspired and profitable (v. 16).
 - 1. Profitable for doctrine or “all the teaching we need.”
 - 2. Profitable for reproof, which means it stops us from doing what is wrong.
 - 3. Profitable for correction, it shows us how we should begin to live.
 - 4. Profitable for training in righteousness.
- C. Scripture is all that is needed to make the man of God (the pastor) perfect, complete, and thoroughly furnished (and equipped) for all good works (v. 17).
 - 1. Timothy is the only person in the New Testament referred to as a man of God.
 - 2. Timothy was a pastor, so by implication this verse applies directly to the pastor.
 - 3. Pastors are equipped for every good work by the Word of God.

CONCLUSION: The Word of God is to be read, studied, believed, and obeyed. It is all that we need. (Ezra 7:10)