**The Sufficiency of Scripture**

*Various Passages, Psalm 19*

**Context**

And as a church and as people whose lives are built upon the foundation of the Word of God, we need to rightly understand why we believe in the inerrancy of the text as well as the sufficiency.

[**2 Corinthians 3:5**](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/2%20Cor%203.5)—*Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy* [sufficiency, NKJV] *is from God*

Our sufficiency is not from men nor from human wisdom. Neither is it from human resources. Our sufficiency is from God.

What we mean by sufficiency is that our capability of living life in God’s plan to the maximum is from Him. We live in an environment in which the resources of life are divine. The wisdom that we need to live life is outside of ourselves and cannot come from human logic or reason.

**1 Corinthians 3:19a**—*For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.*

That does not mean that there is nothing outside of the scriptures that has any value. There are many things that have value. God’s common grace extended to all men. And all of it is of value and helpful. But when it comes to the matters of spiritual life, all we need to know is revealed in the Word of the living God and ministered to us by the Spirit through that Word. Outside the Word of God we do not have to look for a sufficiency that is not provided in the Scripture. To do so would be dishonoring to Him and sinful.

We know that without the intervention of the Holy Spirit to bring us the truth, there never will be knowledge of the Truth.

**2 Timothy 3:7**—*always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

* **2 Corinthians 9:8-11***—And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;****9****as it is written, “He scattered abroad, he gave to the poor, His righteousness endures forever.”* ***10****Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness;****11****you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.*
1. God is our source: *God is able [without limitations]*
2. Multiple superlatives (highest quality or degree):
	1. *To make all grace… [*not some or limited]
	2. *…* *to make all grace abound [*indulgence]
	3. *… so that always [*not sometimes nor most of the time]
	4. *… all sufficiency [*not partial or limited]
	5. *… in everything [*not some, a few, or even most*]*
	6. **v11***,…you will be enriched in everything for all liberality*
* **John 17:17***—Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.*
1. This speaks of the total sanctification of a believer
2. Sanctify--set apart from sin, holy, separated unto God.
3. This is spiritual completion or that which we should be in Christ
4. The full holiness of the believer is the work of the Word of God.
* **Micah 2:7***—“Is it being said, O house of Jacob: ‘Is the Spirit of the Lord impatient? Are these His doings?’ Do not My words do good To the one walking uprightly?*
1. IOW, is it not true that when you live an obedient life, My Word produces good in your life?
2. Does it not produce blessing?
3. **Point:** the Word of God is the source of the goodness of life
* **1 Corinthians 2:13-16***—which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.* ***14****But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.****15****But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one.****16****For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.*
1. The wisdom of God comes to us not through human sources
2. God distributes His wisdom to us by the Spirit of God
3. That is revealed to us in the Word of God
4. In it, we get the *“mind of Christ” (v****16****)*
5. Rhetorical question: Is there anything insufficient in the mind of Christ?
	* Did he need man to inform Him?
	* To give Him wisdom or insights? (Cf. **John 2:24**)
* **Mark12:24***—**Jesus said to them, “Is this not the reason you are mistaken, that you do not understand the Scriptures or the power of God?*
1. To know the Scripture is to experience the power of God
2. People don’t want simply the Bible because in their mind it doesn’t have enough power
3. They need “signs and wonders” to somehow hear from God
4. **Point:** The power of God to deal with any need comes from the Word of God energized in the believer by the Holy Spirit
* **Hebrews 4:12-13***—For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.****13****And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.*
1. The greatest weapon that exists is the Word of God. There is nothing greater or stronger or more effective
2. It is capable of getting down deep into the heart and soul and nature of a person
3. “*But all things are open and laid bare” means there is nothing that is does not expose or somehow required of man to open up*
4. *It penetrates and breaks up the heart revealing along the way*
* **Luke 11:28***—But He said, “On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.”*
1. All spiritual sufficiency is bound up in hearing and obeying the Word of God
2. Hear and do
3. *“Blessed”* here means a blissful state of life, manifested by
	* peace and joy
	* meaning and value
	* hope and fulfillment
	* happiness
4. This speaks of the total sanctification of a believer
5. Sanctify--set apart from sin, holy, separated unto God.
6. This is spiritual completion or that which we should be in Christ
7. The full holiness of the believer is the work of the Word of God.
* **James 1:25***—**But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.*
1. The *perfect law* or the *complete law*
2. There is nothing else needed
3. Don’t add to or take away

**Revelation 22:18-19**—*I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book;****19****and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and]from the holy city, which are written in this book.*

* **Acts 17:11***—Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.*
1. The Bereans were noble in their pursuit of the truth
2. Spiritual nobility belongs to those who receive the Word of God with readiness of mind.
3. It does not come with the Bible PLUS…
4. Noble spirituality is tied to a daily study of the Word of God
* **Colossians 3:16***—Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, sing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*
1. When we let the word if Christ richly dwell within us, then a blessed life follows
2. We use it for our own heart; we use it to correct others
3. Giving thanks
* **1 Peter 2:2***—like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation*
1. Spiritual growth, spiritual maturity, and spiritual strength is connected to our desire for the Word
2. The maturing (progressive sanctification) process is connected to longing for it
3. As a baby cannot grow without it, the same would be true of our growth in Christ
4. The Word provides all the spiritual resource for strengthening
* **2 Peter 1:3-4***—seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.****4****For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.*
1. When we come to embrace the Truth and Christ is revealed through His Word, we are the recipients of the resources that allow us to be able to face any issue or challenge in life
2. All that we need for life, all we need for godliness and all we need for our Christian walk is ours through His precious promises in His Word
3. What other book would we spend so much time studying?
* **Acts 20:20-27***—how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house,****21****solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.****22****And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there,****23****except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me.****24****But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.* ***25****“And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face.****26****Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men.****27****For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.****28****Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.****29****I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;****30****and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.****31****Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.****32****And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.*
1. Paul says to these Ephesian elders, I gave you everything profitable
2. It was the counsel of God and nothing of the counsel of men
3. Paul saw the revelation of God as totally sufficient—able to build them up
4. It will strengthen
* **Colossians 2:3-4***—in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.****4****I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument.****5****For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ.*
1. Everything one needs to know about wisdom and knowledge is found in Christ
2. There is not a need to look elsewhere
3. Don’t let the world charm you with their enticing words
4. *v 7—rooted and built up in Him*
* ***Galatians 3:3****—Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?*
* ***Colossians 2:8-10****—See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.****9****For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,****10****and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority*
1. Human philosophy does not (cannot) speak to spiritual matters
2. That is not to say that it cannot be helpful in the practical aspects of living
3. But it does not (and cannot) speaks of the total sanctification of a believer
* **1 John 2:20-27***—But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.****21****I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.****22****Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.****23****Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.****24****As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.* ***25****This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.* ***26****These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.****27****As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.*
1. You know all you need to know from the anointing in relation to your spiritual life
2. You have the Word of God and the Spirit of God and therefore you have all you need to know
* **1 Thessalonians 2:11-13***—just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children,****12****so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.* ***13****For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.*
1. Initially, Paul says to behave in a way that would be honoring to God
2. There is a word being done in every believer of maturing, strengthening, and building them into Christlikeness
3. It can only be done through the Word of God by the Spirit of God
* **Job 23:12***—“I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.*
1. The Word of God has a higher priority than eating
2. Do we have the same perspective?
* ***Deuteronomy 6:4-6****—“Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!****5****You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.****6****These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.****7****You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.****8****You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead.****9****You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*
1. This is the core of what God wanted the Israelites to know
2. This is a summary of the law
3. Teach it to your children
4. Everywhere you go, you are always aware of the Word of the living God
5. It was to occupy their full and undivided attention
* ***Luke 16:28-31****—for I have five brothers—in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’****29****But Abraham \*said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’****30****But he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!’****31****But he said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.’”*
1. **Context:** Jesus is telling of the beggar Lazarus and the rich man
2. *They have Moses and the prophets* was a reference to the Word of God. Let them read it
3. For the rich man, the simple gospel was not enough. He needed signs, wonders, and resurrections for them to believe. They are not going to otherwise be able to convince people
4. If they don’t believe the Scripture (Moses and the prophets), neither will they be persuaded if one rises from the dead
5. They don’t need a resurrection because the Word is powerful enough to save
* **2 Timothy 3:15-16***—and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.****16****All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;****17****so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*
1. The Bible is sufficient to make you wise unto salvation
2. It is sufficient to give you the doctrine, the reproof, the correction, and the instruction needed for righteousness
3. It is sufficient to make a man of God perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works, lacks nothing
4. The Word of God, absolutely sufficient

**Conclusion**

The sufficiency of God’s word is clear in His word. That said, it is one thing for us to make such an affirming statement, yet at the same time not study it. The evidence of our belief in it is to read, study and loved it—more than life itself. The Word is to be believed and to be obeyed.