**The Sufficiency of Scripture, Pt 2**

*Psalm 19*

**Context**

We all too frequently hear of people who would say they are Christians and that they believe the bible is the word of God, while at the same time completely denying its sufficiency. That is to say, there is a need for additional revelation or additional ways to think and respond to life’s issues because the bible alone is inadequate to do so. It becomes for them one source among many. Such thinking is not only an offense to what God has said through His word, but an offense and sin against Him.

Further, to say (for example) that we need

* psychology for solving man’s problems
* new methodologies for church growth fashioned after business or corporate models
* political power as the key to revival in our country
* miracles, signs, and wonders along with new revelations

All of these thoughts and ideas are subtle (and not so subtle) ways in which the church has allowed worldliness to be ushered in but is also shows a woefully weak view of Scripture.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Is it an overstatement to say that God’s word is really sufficient for matters of spiritual life? If the answer to that question is a resounding no, then we better be sold out to preach, teach, live, and adamantly defend it with our words and our lives, knowing full well the consequences that will come.

Let’s consider what King David says in Psalm 19. It contains one of the most concise and direct treatments of the sufficiency of Scripture.

The first part of the Psalm, we see God’s revelation through creation (vv1-6). It includes natural revelation or general revelation.

**Romans 1:18-20**—*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,****19****because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.****20****For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.*

The second part of the Psalm, we see God’s special revelation given to us through the Scriptures. It is this portion that we want to consider today: the titles, the characteristics, and the benefits of God’s Word (vv7-9).

**6 statements; 3 verses; 1 sufficient Word**

1. **The Titles**
2. Law

**v7a**—The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul;

* 1. Law (*torah)—*biblical or divine teaching
	2. It is the educational (didactic) nature
	3. In it, we get the instructions on life
	4. Including it’s creed (what we believe); what we know of God; what we know of man
	5. It is a complete explanation of God’s instruction for living
	6. **Summary:** Teaching from God for life
1. Testimony

**v7b**—The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

* 1. Testimony—divine witness
	2. God giving testimony to who He is and what He requires
1. Precepts

**v8a**—*The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;*

* 1. *Precepts*—divine principles, statutes, guidelines
	2. God’s word contains guidelines from God on living
1. Commandments

**v8b**—*The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.*

* 1. Commandments—binding, authoritative; they are the requirements of God
	2. Speaks of the authority coming from the Almighty
	3. These are not options or suggestions or “good ideas”; or “take or leave them”
	4. They are commandments that come with blessings for obedience and judgement for disobedience
1. Fear

**v9a**—The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;

* 1. Why does the Psalmist use “fear” as a synonym for the Word of God?
	2. Because Holy Scripture is intended to bring about a fear of the awesomeness of God
	3. We are to have a healthy awe of God
	4. That should lead us to worship
	5. Because of God’s design, we will worship. It’s a question of what we will worship.
1. Judgment

**v9b**—The judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether.

* 1. *Judgments*—ordinances; divine verdicts
	2. These judgments are coming from the bench of the judge of all the earth, Yahweh Himself
	3. The bible is God’s judicial determination for the life of man and eternal destiny from the eternally supreme judge[[2]](#footnote-2)
1. **The Characteristics**
2. Perfect (v7)—whole complete or sufficient

**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. Perfect here is in contrast to that which is imperfect
	2. The flawed reasoning of man
	3. It is comprehensive in that it covers everything
	4. It is all we need because it lacks nothing
1. Sure
	1. Absolute, unwavering, immovable, unmistakable, trusted, reliable
	2. As opposed to unsure, insecure, wavering, changing, shifting, unreliable, untrustworthy
	3. Those would all be characteristic of the thoughts of men

**2 Peter 1:16-19**—*For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.****17****For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased”—****18****and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.* ***19****So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts*

1. Right
	1. They show us the right/true path
	2. Right guidance; proper way to true understanding
	3. We are not without a compass or chart to know the way
2. Clear
	1. Clear—lucid, not confusing, not puzzling, unambiguous, coherent
	2. That is not to say that there are parts of it that are difficult to understand
	3. As a whole, it is clear, easy to understand.
	4. Perspicuity—refers to something that can be seen through, i.e., to lucidity, clearness of style or exposition, freedom from obscurity

**Isaiah 35:8**—*A highway will be there, a roadway,
And it will be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean will not travel on it, But it will be for him who walks that way, And fools will not wander on it.*

1. Clean
	1. *Clean*—Hebrew word meaning the absence of impurity, the absence of filthiness, the absence of defilement, the absence of imperfection
	2. It is without sin, evil, corruption, or error

**Psalm 12:6**—*The words of the Lord are pure words;
As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times.*

1. True
	1. True truth—a rare gem in our world
	2. Because He is true, His Word is true
	3. His word is dependable, relevant, and applicable
	4. It is in stark contrast to the world and the Evil One

**John 8:44-45***—You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.****45****But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me.*

**Deuteronomy 32:4**—“*The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.*

**1 John 1:5**—*This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.*

1. **The Benefits**
2. *Restores the soul*
	1. *Restores*—reviving, refreshing, converting, transforming
	2. *Soul* (nephesh)—literally means "breath.” We were created with the breath of God (**Gen. 2:7; 7:22, 6:17; Ecc. 3:19**).
	3. It works toward the whole person or the heart, the inner man, the “real you”
	4. **Point:** the word is sufficient for a conversion, transformation, restoration for spiritual birth and grown to make the whole person perfect

**2 Timothy 3:15-17**—*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 Peter 1:23**—*for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.*

**Romans 1:16***—**For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

1. Makes wise the simple
	1. *Simple*—foolish, unlearned, inexperienced, ignorant, naive
	2. The word has the idea of an “open door.” They do not have discernment. They allow anything and everything to come in.
	3. The Word of God makes such a person wise
	4. *Wise*—has the idea of skillful living; daily living well; mastered the art of applying God’s will to daily living
2. Rejoices the heart
	1. Without question, true unassailable joy comes from following God’s Word

**Jeremiah 15:16**—*Your words were found and I ate them, And Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; For I have been called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.*

**1 John 1:4**—*These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.*

* 1. The source of pure joy is from God

**Psalm 119:14***—I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches.*

**Psalm 119:54***—Your statutes are my songs In the house of my pilgrimage.*

* 1. **Point:** when you walk in obedience to the will of God and you move on that right path, it rejoices the heart
1. Enlightens the eyes
	1. We would not be able to see without the light it produces
	2. The world is dark; we do not and cannot understand truth, direction, and The Way without it
	3. It gives us the ability to discern truth because we can now see truth from error
	4. It helps me make sense of life

**Proverbs 6:23**—*For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; And reproofs for discipline are the way of life*

**Psalm 119:52**—*I have remembered Your ordinances from of old, O Lord, And comfort myself.*

**Psalm 119:59***—I considered my ways And turned my feet to Your testimonies.*

1. Endures forever
	1. It is always trustworthy
	2. It does not change; it is eternal

**Matthew 24:35**—*Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.*

1. Altogether righteous
	1. *Righteous*—to have a just cause, be in the right; to be justified; cleansed
	2. To be totally right, especially with respect to it comprehensiveness; altogether right
	3. This is more than just without errors; it is a completely sufficient source of truth

**Psalm 119:137-138**—*Righteous are You, O Lord, And upright are Your judgments.* ***138****You have commanded Your testimonies in righteousness And exceeding faithfulness.*

**Deuteronomy 4:2**—*You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.*

(Cf. **Revelation 22:18-19**)

**Deuteronomy 17:19-20***—It shall be with him and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes,****20****that his heart may not be lifted up above his countrymen and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, to the right or the left, so that he and his sons may continue long in his kingdom in the midst of Israel.*

1. ***Of the Lord*** (six times)
2. Everything the Psalmist is identifying is coming from Yahweh
3. He is the source of these blessings

As a result of God’s revelation (both general and special), we have our greatest possession, pleasure, protection and reward

* **Possession** —10They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold;
* **Pleasure** —10bSweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.
* **Protection**—11Moreover, by them Your servant is warned;
* **Reward**—11bIn keeping them there is great reward.

**12**Who can discern *his* errors? Acquit me of hidden *faults*. **13**Also keep back Your servant from presumptuous *sins*; Let them not rule over me; Then I will be blameless, And I shall be acquitted of great transgression. **14**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer.

**Conclusion**

**14**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer.

[Amen]

1. John MacArthur [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)