

Enough to Fulfill God's Intent

In the July *Quill & Scroll*, we saw that the Bible is sufficient as our rule of faith and practice. It is enough for telling us what is right, what is wrong, how to get right, and how to stay right. It is enough for the evangelization of our world today. It is enough for guidance in daily affairs. It is enough for our preaching and teaching ministry.

This time, we want to look at the power of God's Word to actually accomplish the purposes for which God has given it.

Many years ago, a devout body of Christian leaders wrote the following:

“The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man’s salvation, faith, and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men.”

The sufficiency of Scripture has long been a defining mark of evangelical faith and a chief cornerstone of biblical orthodoxy. *Sola Scriptura* was the slogan of the Reformers and has been so through many churches for centuries.

Steve Lawson writes, "But in this present hour, there has been a strange departure from this once firm position on the sufficiency of Scripture. ... Trendy worship styles, worldly entertainment, crass pragmatism, pop psychology, and the like are all competing against the centrality of biblical exposition. Throughout the evangelical world, preaching is becoming watered down with heavy doses of cultural wisdom, therapeutic advice, psycho babble, mystical intuitions, positive thinking, and political agendas, all mixed together with a barrage of personal anecdotes.... The crisis now confronting Bible-believing, churches, organizations and institutions, is this matter of the ability of Scripture to accomplish God’s intended work. Is the Word of God, when rightly taught and carefully followed, capable of performing all that is necessary to fulfill God’s purposes in the church?"

Lawson then points out several areas where the Scripture has power.

First, Scripture is enough *to connect with human hearts*. The Bible says of itself, “For the word of God is alive and active” (Hebrews 4:12). Martin Luther wrote, “The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; It has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold on me.” Lawson writes again, "The preacher does not have to make the Bible relevant; it is relevant. Seeing that the Bible is a living, breathing book, perennially fresh, forever relevant, full of timeless truths, why preach anything else?"

Second, Scripture is enough *to convict hearts*. The Bible is “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” (Hebrews 4:12). God’s Word will do more to speak to people than any man-made message.

Third, the Bible is enough *to convert*. The Apostle Peter wrote, “For you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God” (1 Peter 1:23). As we progress through the book of Acts, as the Word was preached, God converted souls under that Word (Acts 2:27; 4:4; 5:42-6:1; 6:7; 11:21-22; 12:24; 13:46-49; 14:21; 16:14; 17:10-12; 18:8; 19:20).

Fourth, the Scripture is enough *to conform* a believer into the image of Christ. It is through the living Word of God that we grow into Christlikeness. Jesus prayed to the Father, “Sanctify them in the truth, Your Word is truth” (John. 17:17). As Christ prayed for His disciples in the Garden, He knew that spiritual growth is achieved through the Word.

Fifth, the Bible is enough *to counsel believers*. The Bible touches every area of the Christian life, giving sound instruction for successful living. The Word of God is able to make every believer wise in the various parts of life by showing us God's will for our lives that stands forever. The psalmist declares, "Thy testimonies also are my delight, they are my counselors" (Psalm 119:24). It makes one wiser than his enemies (Psalm 119:98), gives more insight than all one's teachers (119:99), and gives more understanding than older people (119:100). For the believer who seeks God's direction, His Word is the primary means of finding His will.

Sixth, Scripture is enough *to conquer the forces of darkness*. The Word brings victory over the devil. We take up "the sword of the Spirit, the word of God" (Ephesians 6:17) and use it daily. Paul wrote, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:4-5). Only the supernatural truth of God's Word can pull down and destroy Satan's strongholds.

We must hold to the Bible confidently as we go about our lives, sharing the Gospel, and working in the Church. We must hold to the inerrancy of the Bible, AND we must believe in its power. Martin Luther explained the Reformation in his day this way: "I simply taught, preached, wrote God's Word; otherwise I did nothing. And when, while I slept, the Word so greatly weakened the papacy that never a Prince or Emperor inflicted such damage upon it. I did nothing. The Word did it all."

Believe the Bible, trust the Bible, read the Bible, and study the Bible. You will never be at a loss when you do so! You have God's Word on it!

Pastor Craig Alan Myers