

The Sufficiency of Scripture (Part 2)

Rocky Wyatt | January 15, 2017

Sufficiency of Scripture: Salvation

James 1:18

In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

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.



Sufficiency of Scripture: Sanctification

John 17:17

Sanctify them in the truth;
Your word is truth.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

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.



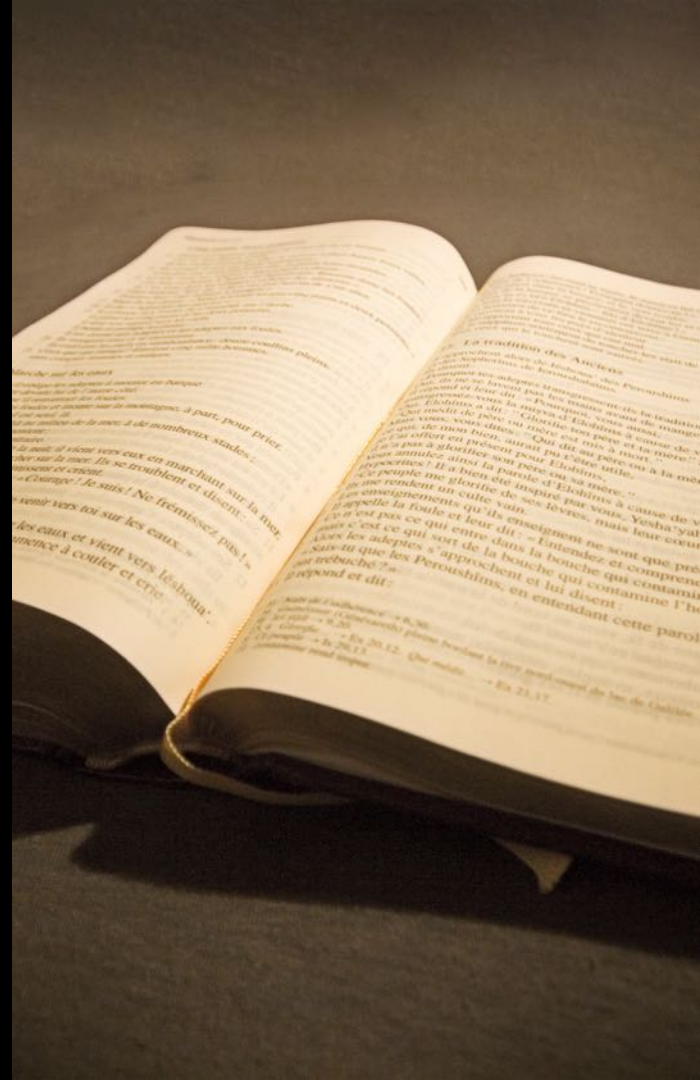
Sufficiency of Scripture: Obedience

Psalms 119:1

1 How blessed are those whose way is blameless, Who walk in the law of the LORD.

1 John 5:3

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.



CBC Distinctive

The Sufficiency of Scripture

We believe that God has provided us in the Scripture with everything necessary to nurture and sustain spiritual life. That means we are committed to teaching and to counseling directly and exclusively from the Word of God. We do not believe that secular psychology has any legitimate role in the sanctification of the believer.



Sufficiency of Scripture: Counseling

A belief in Biblical inerrancy entails an affirmation of Scripture's sufficiency for understanding and resolving the non-physical problems of man. Counseling that is truly Christian must be Christ-centered, church-centered, and Bible-based. Various contemporary approaches to counseling question the sufficiency of Scripture.

- *Wayne Mack*



Sufficiency of Scripture: Counseling

Christian Counseling

- Christ-Centered
- Church-Centered
- Bible-Based

The Shortcomings of Extrabiblical Insights

- Man's Finite Knowledge
- Depravity of Human Nature



The Testimony of Scripture

Psalm 19:7

The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

1. Is perfect (whole, complete, sufficient, lacking nothing) and therefore able to restore (transform, renew, restore) the soul (the inner man, the real self).
2. Is a sure (trustworthy, reliable, dependable) witness and therefore able to make wise the simple (people who lack a proper understanding of life, of God, of themselves, of others).



Mack, W. A. (1998). The Sufficiency of Scripture in Counseling.

The Testimony of Scripture

Psalm 19:8

The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

1. Contains the precepts (principles, guidelines, rules for character and conduct) that are right (correct, in accord with what is just and good, appropriate and fitting) and therefore able to cause the heart (the totality of man's inner non-physical self) to rejoice (to experience a sense of well being, serenity, tranquility, and peace).



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The Testimony of Scripture

Psalm 19:8

The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

2. Is authoritative (it gives mandates and directives that are always correct) and pure (clear, untainted with evil or error) and therefore able to bring light into man's chaos and confusion, to replace man's ignorance and lack of understanding with clear direction, perspective and insight.



Mack, W. A. (1998). The Sufficiency of Scripture in Counseling.

The Testimony of Scripture

Psalm 19:9

The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether.

1. Is clean (uncontaminated, free from impurity, defilement) and enduring (permanent, unchanging, relevant, up to date, never outdated, never in need of alteration) and therefore able to produce the fear of the Lord (a wholesome and incredibly practical and positive reverence for God)



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The Testimony of Scripture

Psalm 19:9

The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether.

2. Provides insights about God, man, life, and everything needed for living and godliness that are altogether true (they correspond to and accurately reflect reality, they tell it like it really is) and righteous (they reflect that which is right, good and holy, that which is truly just and fair) and therefore lead men to understand and practice what is truly real and right.



Mack, W. A. (1998). The Sufficiency of Scripture in Counseling.

The Testimony of Scripture

Psalm 19:10

**They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold;
Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.**

1. Being “more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold” is able to produce in us a kind of prosperity that is more valuable than all the material riches of the world



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The Testimony of Scripture

Psalm 19:10

**They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold;
Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.**

2. Being “sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb” is able to remove the sourness, acidity, and bitterness caused by sin and to produce in us a sweetness of life that surpasses anything the world can provide



Mack, W. A. (1998). The Sufficiency of Scripture in Counseling.

The Testimony of Scripture

Psalm 19:11

Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward.

1. Possessing all of the previously noted qualities, is able to infallibly warn and protect us from the numerous dangers and disasters of life caused by ignorance of what is truly right



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The Testimony of Scripture

Psalm 19:11

Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward.

2. Possessing all of the previously noted characteristics, is able to preserve us from temptation, sin, error, false teaching, and every other threat to the health and well being of our inner man—our thoughts, emotions, affections, and attitudes



Mack, W. A. (1998). The Sufficiency of Scripture in Counseling.

When are We Tempted to Go Beyond Scripture?

- When we want a different answer.
- When the Scriptures don't provide the information our curious minds want.
- When we want to defend our legalistic righteousness.
- When it makes Christianity more socially acceptable.
- When it makes church more "fun."



Right Pursuit - Wrong Response

John 5:39-40

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.



The Believer's Perspective of the Scripture

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. 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.



The Believer's Perspective of the Scripture

Romans 15:4

For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Jude 3

Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.



The Priority of God's Word for the Believer

Loving God's Word

Psalm 119:97

O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

We not only reverence but love the law, we obey it out of love, and even when it chides us for disobedience we love it none the less. The law is God's law, and therefore it is our love. We love it for its holiness, and pine to be holy; we love it for its wisdom, and study to be wise; we love it for its perfection, and long to be perfect.



Spurgeon, C. H. (n.d.). The treasury of David: Psalms 111-119 (Vol. 5, p. 330). London; Edinburgh; New York: Marshall Brothers.

The Priority of God's Word for the Believer

Loving God's Word

Psalm 119:48

And I shall lift up my hands to Your commandments, Which I love; And I will meditate on Your statutes.

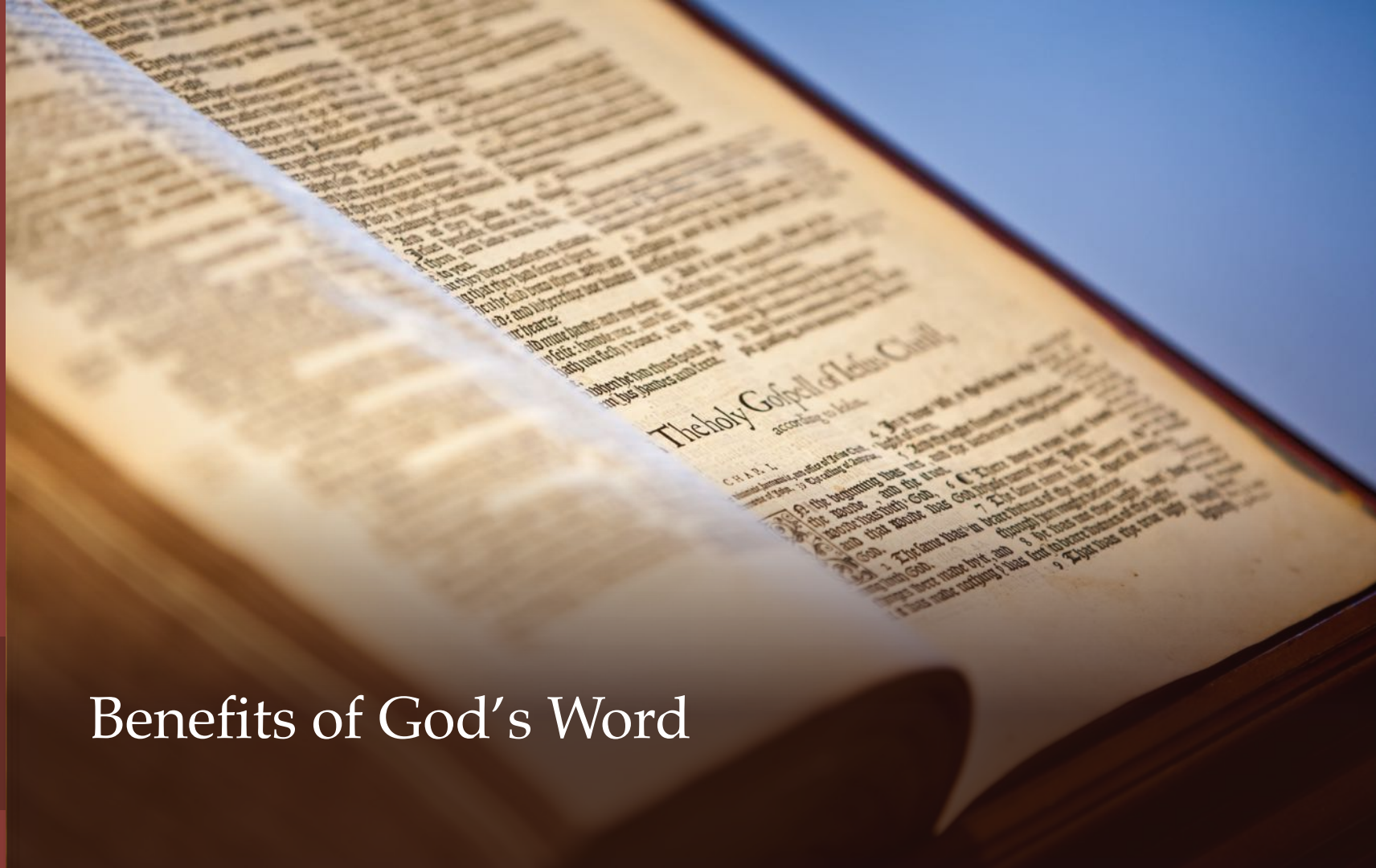
It was natural that he should reach out towards a law which he delighted in, even as a child holds out its hands to receive a gift which it longs for. When such a lovely object as holiness is set before us, we are bound to rise towards it with our whole nature, and till that is fully accomplished we should at least lift up our hands in prayer towards it. Where holy hands and holy hearts go, the whole man will one day follow



Spurgeon, C. H. (n.d.). The treasury of David: Psalms 111-119 (Vol. 5, p. 330). London; Edinburgh; New York: Marshall Brothers.



Benefits of God's Word



It leads us to maturity

Hebrews 5:12–14

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.



It guides our steps

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

Proverbs 6:23

For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; And reproofs for discipline are the way of life



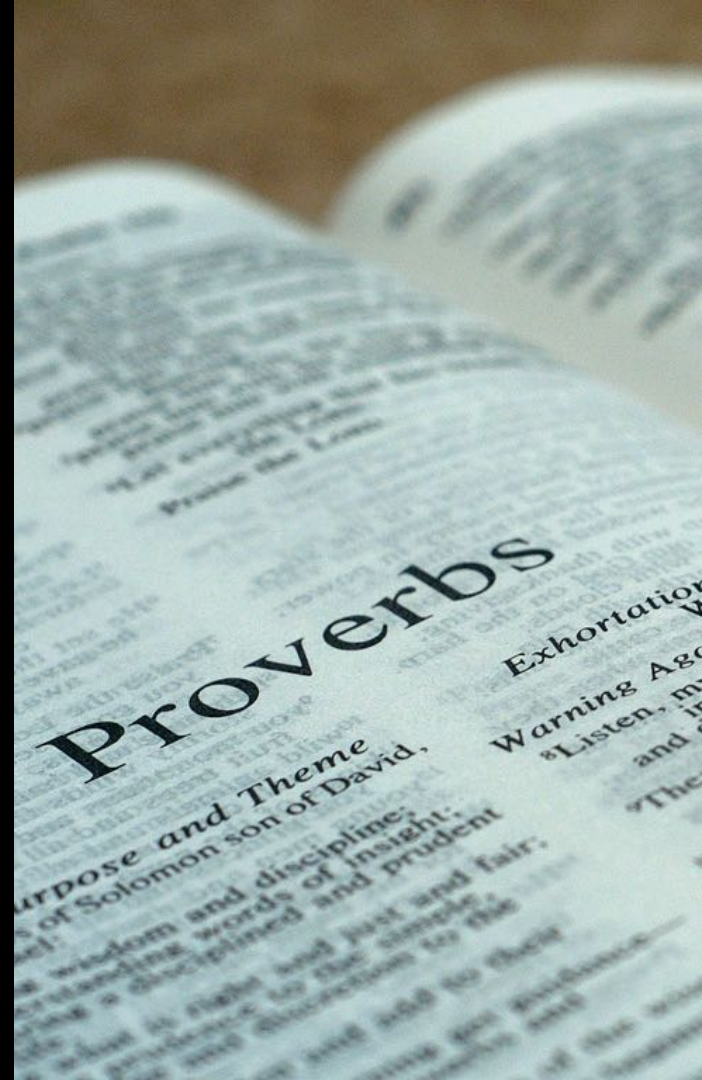
It teaches us wisdom

Proverbs 2:6

For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Psalms 119:98

Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, For they are ever mine.



It sustains us in the great
difficulties of life

Psalm 119:28

My soul weeps because of grief;
Strengthen me according to Your word.

Psalm 119:50

This is my comfort in my affliction, That
Your word has revived me.

Psalm 119:107

I am exceedingly afflicted; Revive me, O
Lord, according to Your word.



It brings joy

Psalm 119:111

I have inherited Your testimonies forever, For they are the joy of my heart.

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.



It brings peace

Psalm 119:165

Those who love Your law have great peace, And nothing causes them to stumble.



It fills us with hope

Psalm 119:49

Remember the word to Your servant, In which You have made me hope.

Romans 15:4

For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.



It protects us from temptation and gives victory over sin

Psalm 119:9–11

How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments. Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.

Matthew 4:3–4

And the tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’”



It keeps us on the right path

Psalm 119:29–30

Remove the false way from me, And graciously grant me Your law. I have chosen the faithful way; I have placed Your ordinances before me.

Psalm 119:104

From Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.

Psalm 119:128

Therefore I esteem right all Your precepts concerning everything, I hate every false way.



It leads to answered prayer

John 15:7

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.



It prepares us to minister to others

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, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

2 Timothy 3:16–17

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.



It leads to fruitfulness

Psalm 1:2–3

But his delight is in the law of the Lord,
And in His law he meditates day and
night. He will be like a tree firmly
planted by streams of water, Which
yields its fruit in its season And its leaf
does not wither; And in whatever he
does, he prospers.



It leads the way to success

Joshua 1:8

This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

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.



It discerns the condition of our hearts

Hebrews 4:12

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.



It endures

Isaiah 40:8

The grass withers, the flower fades,
But the word of our God stands
forever.



A Warning

Proverbs 28:9

He who turns away his ear from
listening to the law, Even his prayer
is an abomination.



Personal Considerations

How would you rate your personal commitment to the Word?

- Totally dependent
- As necessary
- In emergencies
- Erratic



Personal Considerations

Does your time in the Word vary with:

- Your personal motivation
- Your schedule
- Your circumstances



Personal Considerations

Is God's Word an established priority based on:

- Absolute dependence
- Time left at the end of the day
- What energy I have left
- Whether I wake up on time
- Guilt



Personal Considerations

When you hear the command to study God's Word do you:

- Study the Scriptures
- Read the Scriptures
- Prayerfully consider studying the Scriptures
- Nothing



A Worthy Goal

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.



