



World Christian Fellowship

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Sufficiency of scripture 03

What is lacking in the modern-day Christians?

- Reading the Word,
- Obeying the Word,
- Living it out,
- Teaching the Word, and
- Proclaiming the Word.

The reason for this is that they don't understand the truth about the sufficiency of the Scriptures.

Psalms 19 and 119

David, who is the author of Psalm 19, was a man who understood the extremes, the necessities, the fluctuations, struggles, trials, troubles and tribulations of life to the degree that only few people have endured them.

David knew what it was to have his life threatened continually before becoming a king and even after that as well.

He knew what it was to have fallen into deep sin.

He knew what it was to have betrayed an enormous sacred trust.

He knew what it was to have his own children rebel against him. He knew what it was to have fouled up marriages and distressing family circumstances.

David is a man who speaks out of the depth of human emotion, and yet finds perfect sufficiency in the Word of God.

We will divide this Psalm into three parts!

1. Knowing God through His World
2. Knowing God through His Word
3. Knowing God through Living His Way

God's World – Verses 1-6

God's Word – Verses 7-11

God's Way – Verses 12-14

- ✓ If the Sun were as tall as a typical front door, Earth would be about the size of a nickel.
- ✓ The Sun is the center of our solar system and makes up 99.8 percent of the mass of the entire solar system.
- ✓ As a star, the Sun is a ball of gas (92.1 percent hydrogen and 7.8 percent helium) held together by its own gravity.
- ✓ The Sun's core is about 27 million degrees Fahrenheit (15 million degrees Celsius).
- ✓ The radius of the sun is 696,000 kilometres.
- ✓ The rotation speed of sun is 1.997 km/s, 107,000Km/H or 67,000 miles/h

Let us look at God's Word from **Verses 7 to 11**.

7 The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul;

The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;

8 The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;

The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;

9 The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;

The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold,

Yea, than much fine gold;

Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

11 Moreover by them Your servant is warned,

And in keeping them there is great reward.

Verses 7-9

Six parameters for the Word of God

Title	Characteristics	Benefit
Law	Perfect	Converts the Soul
Testimony	Sure	Makes wise
Statue	Right	Rejoice the heart
Commandment	Clear	Enlighten eyes
Fear	Clean	Endures forever
Judgement	True	Altogether righteous

In these three verses we can see the infinite intelligence of the infinite mind of God. Absolutely surpassing and comprehensive statement on the Scripture in a very few words. The magnitude of this section of Scripture stretches us beyond any of our human ability.

Six times in these three verses we read “of the Lord.”

1. The law of the Lord,
2. The testimony of the Lord,
3. The statutes of the Lord,
4. The commandment of the Lord,
5. The fear of the Lord, and
6. The judgments of the Lord.

We can see clearly that the source of these words is from the Lord God only! Six times the covenant name of God, Yahweh, is used to identify the source of the sufficient Word.

This Psalm is nothing but God’s own testimony to the sufficiency of Scripture for all spiritual needs.

1. The Law of the Lord

V 7, *The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul.*

Title for Scripture is “the law.” The word is ‘**Torah**’, means biblical or divine teaching. It points to the teaching or the didactic/ moral nature of Scripture. God instructing man.

The Scripture as doctrine, dispensed from God to man which is divine instruction,

relative to faith: what we believe,

relative to character: what we are, and

relative to conduct: what we do.

It is a complete explanation of God's instruction or teaching for man's life.

This divine teaching which comes through the Holy Scripture is perfect.

James in his epistle he called it even called it the perfect law.
(James 1:25)

Old Testament scholar says that the fullness of the meaning of perfect is to say that it means "*all sided so as to cover completely all aspects of a thing.*" It is a word of comprehensiveness. In other words, we say that Scripture covers everything, and it lacks nothing whatsoever.

V 7 says that its perfection is related to converting the soul. The Hebrew term for converting can mean reviving, restoring, refreshing, converting, and transforming.

The Scripture is so comprehensive that it literally can transform a person's life.

The word soul, 'nephesh' in Hebrews means the person or the self or the heart. The inner person, the whole person, the real you. The word then is so comprehensive as to have the ability to totally transform the real you, the whole person.

The Scripture is sufficient for conversion, for transformation, for restoration, for spiritual birth and growth to perfection for the whole person.

2 Timothy 3:15-17, *and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Paul reminds Timothy that the Scripture is able to make you wise unto salvation. Not only that, to make you perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

The Word of God then has the power of total transformation. It is so comprehensive that it can mould a soul, a living person, into precisely what God desires that person to be.

1 Peter 1:23-24, *having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, ²⁴because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away,*

The new birth, or conversion, transformation is accomplished by the Word of God. The Word by which the gospel is preached to you. So, it is the Word that converts the soul.

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

Paul said that the power in the word is able to transform a life. The word of God is the agency of the new birth.

The following questions will make you understand the problem when we leave the sufficiency of scriptures.

- Is the Word of God so weak and without power in itself as need to be preached by a superstar celebrity personality?
- Or not famous for being godly and not well-known for great skill in the Word?
- Or because the media made them famous?
- Are we to believe that they can do what the power of the Word cannot accomplish?
- Or do we need to make sloppy appeals to the emotions of people to boast their feelings, egos, and their need for self-esteem?
- Or does the gospel have no power and weak that we have to be polluted with promises of material success?

- Why do TV evangelists have to tell us that if only we will send them large sums of money and believe, “seed” faith will bring us back more money than we can imagine?
- Is this necessary to add money to the gospel to make it appetising that it cannot convert the soul?
- Is it really the Lord’s plan for men called to preach the unsearchable riches of the Word of God to leave the Word of God but to become political activists and lobbyists, hoping to overcome the deficiency of Scripture with human power?
- Does the Word must be put in a sophisticated, saleable, suitable marketing plan that shows the perspective buyer primarily what’s in it for him?

If you answer yes for anything to the above questions, then you are in a serious violation of law of God by not trusting the sufficiency of the Word of God.

One author puts it across so beautifully!
The Word is the sea
Christ is the pearl of great price is found.

Psalm 119:41, *Let Your mercies come also to me, O Lord— Your salvation according to Your word.*

Psalmist says that Salvation is connected to the Word of God.

Psalms 119:50, *This is my comfort in my affliction, For Your word has given me life.*

Psalms 119:81, *My soul faints for Your salvation, But I hope in Your word.*

Psalms 119:146, I cry out to You; Save me, and I will keep Your testimonies.

Psalms 119:151, *You are near, O Lord, And all Your commandments are truth.*

Salvation is found in Your Word and they are not looking there.

Psalms 119:158, *I see the treacherous, and am disgusted, Because they do not keep Your word.*

Psalms 119:174, *I long for Your salvation, O Lord, And Your law is my delight.*

Is it any wonder Paul commanded his spiritual son saying, "Preach the Word, in season or out of season?" (**2 Timothy 4:2**)
The Word is sufficient to convert the soul.

2. The testimony of the Lord,

V7, The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;

David takes another step in building this tremendous magnificent presentation of scriptural sufficiency.

He uses the word “testimony” now he looks at the Word of God as divine witness. In other words that the Word of God is that God giving testimony about Himself, who He is and what He requires.

The testimony of God to Himself in the Word of God, is sure.

What is the contrast to sure?

- unsure,
- insecure,
- wavering,
- changing,
- shifting,
- unreliable, and
- untrustworthy.

But the Word of the living God is sure.

Sure means,

- ✓ unwavering,
- ✓ immovable,
- ✓ unmistakable,
- ✓ worthy to be trusted and
- ✓ reliable.

The Word of God provides a foundation on which one can build his life and eternal destiny without any hesitation.

Peter remembers what happened while he was with Jesus.

2 Peter 1:17-21, *For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*¹⁸ *And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.*¹⁹ *And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;*²⁰ *knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,*²¹ *for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

Experience, supernatural experience, signs, and wonders have their place. Peter says, "There is a more sure word than this." And that word is the Scripture, the Scripture given as holy men were moved by the Spirit of God.

What is its benefit?

Making wise the simple.

The root of the Hebrew word for "simple" is the idea of an open door.

A simple person is a person who is

- ✓ Undiscerning,
- ✓ don't know when to shut the door,
- ✓ don't know what to close out,
- ✓ Let everything comes in,
- ✓ unlearned,
- ✓ inexperienced,
- ✓ ignorant, and
- ✓ naive.

But they can be made wise.

What is the source of that?

The Word of God.

Scripture takes the naive, unexperienced, undiscerning, uninformed and brings to that individual wisdom.

The word "wise." In Hebrew means to be skilled in the art of godly living.

It is to master the art of daily living, accomplished by the knowledge and application of the Word of God. In Scripture God is always the source of wisdom and it is from above.

How can you not believe that the Word of God is not sufficient? Do you have to believe in the human wisdom from the human resources all around us of sociology, psychology, and philosophy?

Is it necessary for preachers to go outside the Bible?

The testimony of God Himself is that His Word is sufficient to make the simple wise in the matter of the art of living life in the will of God.

Psalm 119:27, *Make me understand the way of Your precepts; So shall I meditate on Your wonderful works.*

Psalm 119:34, *Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart.*

Psalm 119:66, *Teach me good judgment and knowledge, For I believe Your commandments.*

Psalm 119:98-100, *You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me. ⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. ¹⁰⁰ I understand more than the ancients, Because I keep Your precepts.*

Psalm 119:104, *Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.*

Psalm 119:125, *I am Your servant; Give me understanding, That I may know Your testimonies.*

Psalm 119:169, *Let my cry come before You, O Lord; Give me understanding according to Your word.*

The psalmist knew that the source of wisdom was in the Word of God!

The Word of God is sufficient to transform the soul.

Word of God is sufficient in the matter of daily living to the glory of God.