

PNEUMANETICS

ORIGINAL

BOOK 2

THE SUFFICIENCY

OF SCRIPTURE

BY
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WORKBOOK

DAY ONE

THE RELEVANCY OF SCRIPTURE

For many, it can be difficult to accept the fact that a series of books written by 66 authors over a period spanning thousands of years could even address the problems of Twenty-First Century man, let alone actually heal them. In their minds, the wisdom of contemporary culture far exceeds the wisdom of God revealed in Scripture.

However, if the Bible is true—as it claims to be—and if Jesus Christ is who He claimed to be, then the Bible as we know it today is indeed the living Word of the Living God. God's Word is not just necessary for everyday living; it's imperative! All that man has done throughout all of recorded history does not even come close to comparing with the Holy Scriptures.

1. What claim does Jesus make in Matthew 24:35?

2. What do you think Jesus felt was the significance of this statement?

3. What did Jesus consider God's Word to be? (John 17:17)

4. What does the Psalmist say about God's Word in Psalm 119:160?

5. What was Jesus saying in Matthew 4:4 when He quoted Deuteronomy 8:3?

6. What did Jesus have to say about His own words in John 6:63?

7. What does David say about God's Word in Psalm 12:6?

8. What does the prophet Isaiah claim in Isaiah 40:8?

9. What does Peter say in 1 Peter 1:24-25?

10. In 1 Thessalonians 2:13, what does Paul say the Word of God is doing?

11. In Ephesians 2:10, the word “workmanship” comes from the Greek poiēma (POY-ay-muh), which is related to God and His supernatural work within the Christian’s life. What does this verse say that we are as followers of Christ? And what does that mean?

12. From the two verses we referred to in Questions 10 and 11, describe in what ways you are a product of the supernatural work of God's Word in you.

13. In your own words, describe how relevant you feel God considers His Word to be.

14. Do you feel God's Word is relevant to your present life situation and circumstances? If yes, in what ways does it apply? If no, why not?

15. Based on what you know about what the Bible says, what do you think are the next action steps you should take for your situation?

DAY TWO

THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

When we speak of the authority of Scripture, we mean that the Bible represents God's final Word to us. All that God has said or needs to say is contained in the Bible. Because it is God's Word and it is His final Word to us, it is a mirror of God's own personal authority, standing as ultimate and supreme authority to the Christian here on earth.

Whether a person chooses to accept the Bible as God's Word or not, their position in no way diminishes its actual authority. God's Word is the final authority because God is the final authority. As Christians, we must choose to come under the authority of Scripture—that is, to allow the Bible to become the basis of our choices, rather than our intellect or emotions.

But until a Christian makes the Bible his final authority, he cannot truly trust it. Behind the Word of God stands the entire character of God. If the Scriptures are not true, then God is not true. If the Scriptures err, then God errs. If you can't trust the Scriptures, it's because, ultimately, you don't trust God.

God's Word cannot be simply one authority among other authorities. His Word does not allow for that. Either the Bible is our final authority, or we choose another (simply by default). Unfortunately, the authority most people choose is first their emotions, and perhaps secondly their intellect.

If the Bible is to address adequately our situation, then we must learn to rely upon it rather than other sources. This study is designed to help you trust God's Word by making it your final authority.

1. In 2 Timothy 3:16, what does Paul say of the Scriptures?

2. The word “inspired” or “inspiration” in 2 Timothy 3:16 literally means “God-breathed.” When the Bible says that all Scripture is “inspired” by God, what does that mean?

3. What warning did Moses offer in Deuteronomy 4:2, echoed again by the apostle John in Revelation 22:19?

4. Why do you think God included this admonition in Scripture?

5. What did Peter declare in John 6:68?

6. Compare Peter's words in John 6:68 with Acts 4:12. Would you say that the Bible contains God's final word to us concerning eternal life?

Regarding salvation, is there any authority greater than God's Word? If so, what is it?

7. There is a great deal of knowledge in the world, but only one source of actual truth (John 17:17). From page 10, list here the five basic principles that define legitimate truth.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

8. In James 3:15, how does James refer to the wisdom of the world?

9. List the seven characteristics that James says the Word of God possesses in James 3:17.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

10. In 1 Corinthians 2 and 3, Paul compares the wisdom of God with the wisdom of the world. In 1 Corinthians 3:19–20, how does Paul refer to the wisdom of the world?

11. What does John 1:1 call Jesus?

12. Describe the difference between Jesus being the Living Word and the Bible being God’s written Word. How are these two things related?

13. List at least three reasons why you can trust the Word of God.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

14. Write out your favorite verse below. Be prepared to quote it from memory at the next session.

DAY THREE

THE SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE

Sufficiency is the practical application of the authority of Scriptures in everyday living. If the Bible did not speak to our everyday issues and address our everyday problems, then it would be of little help to us. It is not our trust in the Scriptures that *makes* them sufficient; rather, we trust them *because* they are sufficient.

1. Read Hebrews 4:12. What is the first thing that this verse calls the Word of God?

2. What does the word “living,” or “alive,” mean to you in this context?

3. In John 6:63, what does Jesus say about His own words?

4. In John 5:26, what does Jesus say He has from the Father in Himself?

5. In John 5:21, what does Jesus say he does at his own discretion?

6. In your own words, describe how you think God's Word could be alive. Is God alive? If you answered yes, how do you know? How are these two things—the life of God and the life of His Word—related?

7. What is the second thing Hebrews 4:12 says about the Word of God?

8. What does the word “active,” or “powerful,” mean to you in this context?

9. The English word “energetic” is probably the most descriptive synonym of the word translated as “active” in Hebrews 4:12. In 1 Thessalonians 2:13, the word “work” comes from the same root as the word “active” in this verse, implying the supernatural power of God. In your own words, describe how the Word of God works supernaturally in those who believe. In what ways do their lives change? How are those changes effected?

10. What instrument does Hebrews 4:12 compare the Word of God to?

11. Hebrews 4:12 says the Word of God is “piercing.” In your own words, describe what you think that means.

12. Describe what you think Hebrews 4:12 means by “the division of soul and spirit,” “both joints and marrow,” and “the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

13. When a follower of Christ begins to feel the word of God “piercing” them, how should they respond?

DAY FOUR

APPLICATION OF THE SCRIPTURE

In Philippians 4:9, Paul wrote to the Philippians to practice (that is, to continue doing consistently) the things that they had learned, received, heard, and seen from him. If we are to enjoy the supernatural benefits that the Word of God offers, then we must find practical ways to apply them as much as possible to our everyday lives.

This means that we must invest in a systematic approach in how we study God's Word. Spiritual food must be just as important to us—if not more so—than physical food. Man doesn't live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4). Our attitude must become like that of Ezra, who “set his heart to study the law of the Lord and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances” (Ezra 7:10).

Unfortunately, to many, Bible reading and study is an exercise in boredom. They're not consistently experiencing the practical rewards they could enjoy by purposefully seeking God's Word for wisdom and truth. Certainly, our enemy does his best to distract us even from discovering (let alone understanding) the truths of the Scripture. However, if we diligently approach God's Word with a humble, expectant heart (Psalm 51:6, 10, and 17), our satisfaction in seeking and experiencing God's insights grows into an insatiable appetite for His truth.

1. In Jeremiah 15:16, what did the prophet say he did with God's Words?

2. What does the Psalmist encourage us to do in Psalm 34:8?

3. In your own words, what do you think the “taste and see” part of this verse means?

4. Psalm 19:7-11 is sometimes referred to as the “Sufficiency passage.” It describes the Word of God in six different ways, each one representing a practical approach we can use to apply its wisdom to our lives. Let’s break these down:

The **law** of the Lord is _____. What does it do?

The **testimony** of the Lord is _____. What does it do?

The **precepts** of the Lord are _____. What do they do?

The **commandment** of the Lord is _____. What does it do?

The **fear** of the Lord is _____. What does it do? (That is, how long does it last?)

The **judgments** of the Lord are _____. What are they? (That is, how does this passage describe them?)

5. In your own words, write what you feel are the benefits that Psalm 19:10-11 says come from reading and studying God's Word.

6. Read Psalm 119. For each of the verses listed below, write what this chapter says are the benefits that God's Word offers to us:

v. 9-10

v. 24

v. 25

v. 38

v. 45

v. 103

v. 105

DAY FIVE

USING THE SCRIPTURE

1. When you're angry, depressed, frustrated, or anxious, do you look to God's Word to help you understand your thoughts and feelings? If not, where do you go for answers (friends, books, pastor, etc.)?

2. Briefly describe the most significant issue in your life that you're presently struggling with.

3. What are you planning to do to address this issue?

4. Where would you say your ideas for dealing with that issue came from?

5. Can you support your plan for addressing your issue with passages from Scripture? If so, list below which Bible references specifically support your approach. (You don't need to write out the verses in their entirety here.)

6. Do you know of any passages from Scripture that might contradict your plan? If so, list them here:

7. In your own words, write how you think God probably views your particular circumstances.

- [illegible]

[illegible]

FOR YOU AS THE BIBLICAL MINISTER

Reread the Case History from the Workbook portion of Book 1: Introduction (the story about Stan and Charlotte's marriage). Then answer the following questions.

1. Do you feel that the Bible addresses Stan and Charlotte's problems? What sorts of "themes" or ideas might you search for in the Bible to help provide them with meaningful direction?

2. If you were speaking to Stan and Charlotte, how would you explain to them the Bible's authority for their lives?

3. Make a list of the Bible verses and passages you feel could address Stan and Charlotte's situation. Include the book, chapter, and verse references, with a brief summary of what each says. But don't feel you have to write each verse in its entirety here. However, do be prepared to discuss your answers during the next session.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.