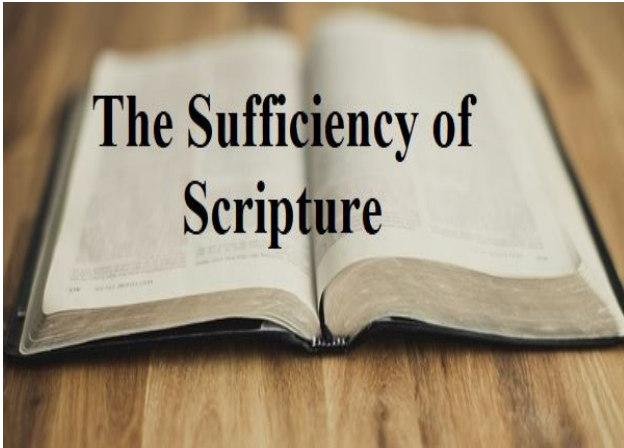


April - May 2019

Faith
&
Family

Connecting the Community to the Christ

Connect
A Ministry of Victory Baptist Church



by Pastor Mike Ennis

I am hesitant to criticize other Christians or churches for two reasons. **1)** I might be misjudged, accused of jealousy, a critical spirit, a better than thou attitude or a spirit of competition. **2)** My life and our church are not perfect. We cannot claim perfect knowledge nor can we claim perfect living. At best we are growing in grace and knowledge of the Lord.

Having said that, ministers of the Word of God do have an obligation to confront false teaching and the false living that we see around us.

2 Timothy 2:24–26 (AV)

²⁴ And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all *men*, apt to teach, patient, ²⁵ In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God

peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; ²⁶ And *that* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Titus 1:9 (AV)

⁹ Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

The concern that I have today is the abandonment of the doctrine of the sufficiency of the Scripture. Most Christians believe the doctrine of the inspiration of the Scripture, that is the truth that the Bible is the Word of God. It is a special revelation from God to us.

2 Timothy 3:16 (AV)

¹⁶ All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2 Peter 1:21 (AV)

²¹ For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.

God's Word, the Bible, came from God. It is a supernatural revelation from God to us. But to say that it is inspired is to stop short of the whole truth; not only is it inspired, but it is sufficient.

(See Sufficiency Page 3)

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Mike Ennis – Senior Pastor

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April - May 2019

Sweet Disposition

by Don Sweet
"PHDified"

A statement from one of my former pastors has always stuck in my mind. He said that his brother was so educated that it would be nearly



impossible for him to ever accept the Lord as his personal Savior. With more life and experience behind me, I now believe I understand what he had meant by his statement.

A good example of where America has been heading intellectually is on display in Washington D.C. and many other towns and cities where 'common sense' has become nearly extinct, especially in the areas of education, management and legislation.

Once a common ingredient found within the mix of all human DNA, 'common sense', is found AWOL. If man is truly seeking higher and higher levels of knowledge in all areas of life, then why are we seemingly learning less and less in basic understanding?

With man seeking knowledge, he has missed some key ingredients found in Scripture, which say it best. **(Proverbs 1:7 to fear the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, and in (Prov 4:7) which says to get wisdom and with it get**

understanding. So man has sought only part of the prescription for learning and growing; he has sought knowledge and forgotten wisdom, which is the judicious use of knowledge.

Knowledge used without wisdom is dangerous. Like a chimpanzee who strikes a match and then tosses it aside; he displays excitement in his knowledge of how to strike the match and then can't understand why his home and surroundings are burning down around him.

With all of mans seeking of knowledge, why does it appear that we are going backwards or down hill in many cases? Could it be that man is seeking knowledge that lifts up or glorifies himself rather than his Creator? Is it possible that man uses his so called knowledge or science to discredit his Maker? (1 Tim 6:20)

If man is to move forward in his knowledge and understanding, he must know the truth that motivates his instructor. Whenever extracting knowledge from a teacher, book or lesson, we must seek and ask, "Is this truth?" and who or what can we compare this truth against?

Jesus claimed to be the truth (John 14:6); His book is truth. Whether we understand His truth or not is not as important as to seek understanding and ask for His help. If we understood all of God's word we would be more than just men, we would be gods.

The Bible says that man is **(2 Tim 3:7) Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.** Man is not learning if he is not seeking truth from the right source.

Pray that we do not get to smart for our own good! And pray that God is your source of Truth in all things.

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2 Timothy 3:16–17 (AV)

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

God's Word is all that we need to equip us for a life of faith and service to God. It shows us how we can be reconciled to God through Christ and how we can live a life that is pleasing and fruitful to Him.



We do not need anything else, save the help of God the Spirit to understand and apply the Bible to our lives. In principle, again, many Christians would agree with that. The problem is that their practice would disagree. Christians are increasingly turning for solutions to life's desires and challenges to sources outside of the Bible. Psychology is looked to as a source to help us deal with life issues.

But doesn't the Bible address many of the things that Christians turn to psychologist for help? Doesn't the Bible teach us how to have a sound mind, joy, peace and contentment? Does it not have answers for stress, worry, unhappiness, etc.? Did God make a mistake when He made promises related to these things? And what about marriage problems, does not the Bible have answers? What about finances, job issues, health, and other things that Christians look to extra Biblical sources for answers?

I acknowledge that there are some legitimate mental issues that are organic in nature that just reading the Bible will not help. But for most life issues the Word of God has the answer. One of the problems is that Christians have bought into the "sickness" model instead of the "sin" model. John MacArthur tells of the advice of one psychologist, "... it would be helpful to cultivate a meaningful spiritual philosophy. She said to find a belief system that works for you—any will do—but be sure to avoid people who talk about sin and guilt." 'from "The Sufficiency of Christ, John MacArthur (Dallas, Word, 1991), 75-90

Don't talk about sin and guilt! That is the problem most of the time! How can we not talk about sin and guilt? This is a perfect example of the wisdom of man over and against the wisdom of God found in His Word.

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(Sufficiency from Page 3)

In the church the abandonment of the sufficiency of Scripture is seen in the addition of psychological principles, entertainment, and marketing methods in the attempt to reach people with the gospel message.

I would not judge the motives of these churches (although some are suspect), but I will say that their methods are wrong. I partially understand what they are doing. We live in a culture where people are literally entertaining themselves to death, so churches give the people what they want. In fact, the marketing aspect of some churches is just that; find out what they want (felt needs) and target your ministry to that. In some churches if you took out the influence of the Holy Spirit it would be business as usual because they use marketing techniques, entertainment, and pop psychology to draw the crowds. It is justified by saying “We are getting them in, or we are winning them.” I hope so, but I question that the results are genuine, especially when you adopt a pop psychology model when it comes to sin.

Please my Christian brothers, let’s get back to the basics, Spirit-filled teaching and preaching of the word of God. Look at the practices of the early Church.

Acts 2:42 (AV)

⁴²And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Note the first activity of the early church:

“They continued steadfastly in the apostle’s doctrine”, in the Word of God. It is all we need— no musical manipulation, no sad stories, no drama, no new word of vision, just the sufficient Word of God.



Prayer of Salvation

God loves you--no matter who you are, no matter what your past. God loves you so much that He gave His one and only begotten Son for you. The Bible tells us that “...whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Jesus laid down His life and rose again so that we could spend eternity with Him in heaven and experience His absolute best on earth. If you would like to receive Jesus into your life, say the following prayer out loud and mean it from your heart:

Heavenly Father, I come to You admitting that I am a sinner. Right now, I choose to turn away from sin, and I ask You to cleanse me of all unrighteousness. I believe that Your Son, Jesus, died on the cross to take away my sins. I also believe that He rose again from the dead so that I might be forgiven of my sins and made righteous through faith in Him. I call upon the name of Jesus Christ to be the Savior and Lord of my life. Jesus, I choose to follow You and ask that You fill me with the power of the Holy Spirit. I declare that right now I am a child of God. I am free from sin and full of the righteousness of God. I am saved in Jesus’ name. Amen.

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DON'T DILUTE THE WORD!

2 Peter 2:8-9 For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;) The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

When Jesus was attacked by Satan during His temptation in the wilderness, He countered every attack with the Word of God. But notice in Satan's second attack – the enemy himself quoted the Scriptures, saying, “If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down, for it is written, 'He shall give his angels charge over thee, and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.'” (Matthew 4:6 was a quote from Psalm 91:11, but the phrase, “to keep thee in all thy ways” was absent from Satan's quote).

If we learn anything from this, we will realize that Satan has knowledge and some understanding of Scripture, and that he will use the Word attempting to deceive us with it into

wrong actions. This tactic goes back even as far as the Garden of Eden where the adversary twisted God's word saying, "Did God really say you shall not eat from every tree in the garden?" So it is today, that all around us we are hearing constant abuses, questions, and attacks against the truth and reliability of God's Word. Did God really create the world...in six days? Did God really say that marriage consists of a union between a man and a woman? Is God really going to judge the world and destroy it with fire? Has God really defined absolute moral truth?

The enemy is constantly attempting to erode and destroy the foundational truths of God's word using distortions, corruptions, half-truths, and modern "interpretations", for he knows that “if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?” (Psalm 11:3)
(Used by permission)

The Moment of Truth

Athletes train for years to prepare for a race. Then, in a matter of seconds, it's all over, with those many years of preparation condensed to a single moment of truth. If an athlete is victorious, they have proven to self and spectators, the years of effort have not been wasted.



The life of Christianity is similar to the life of an athlete. There will be years of training, setbacks and heartaches. If we persevere, God will arrange a demonstration of our spiritual strength in one of life's many events. It will be our moment of truth - our turn to face Goliath. Often, the time we have to show the world the

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Butterfly Wings

One day a small opening appeared in a cocoon. A man sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could and it could go no further. So the man decided to help the butterfly. He took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily. But it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings. The man continued to watch the butterfly



because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand, to support the body which would contract in time. Neither happened. In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings. It was never able to fly. What the man in his kindness and haste did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening were God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon. Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our own development. If

God allowed us to go through life without any challenges, we would not have the spiritual muscles that would have come through effort and exercise. And we would never be able to fly.



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God allowed us to go through life without any challenges, we would not have the spiritual muscles that would have come through effort and exercise. And we would never be able to fly.

By Sheila Gibson

(Moment from Page 5)

'glory of God' is over in a heartbeat. It could simply be a small window of opportunity. when it is most needed. Usually, these situations pop up unexpected and unannounced. How we handle these opportunities say or do the right thing at the exact moment depends on our mindset

However, we can relax; God knows when we are spiritually strong enough to be victorious. We will not be tested beyond our ability. At that time, He will bring the right spectators to watch our moment of truth so they can witness that our years of faith in Him have been well justified.

(Psalms 1:3)
Then, like the Apostle Paul, we can say: have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7.

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