

**DOCTRINE MATTERS: ESSENTIAL TRUTHS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH**  
**Message 2: The Bible — Clarity, Necessity, and Sufficiency**

Why study doctrine?

Studying doctrine allows us to live out the Christian faith with \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

What does the Bible tell us about itself?

4 Characteristics:

Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**CLARITY** defined:

*The clarity of Scripture means that the Bible is written in such a way that its teachings are able to be understood by all who will read it seeking God's help and being willing to follow it.*  
(Grudem)

- The Bible frequently affirms its own \_\_\_\_\_.

**Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (ESV)**

*"These words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."*

**Psalms 19:7 (ESV)**

*"The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple."*

**Psalms 119:130 (ESV)**

*"The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple."*

- \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ qualities are needed for right understanding of Scripture.

**1 Cor. 2:14 (ESV)**

*“The unspiritual man does not receive the gifts of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.”*

Why do people misunderstand Scripture?

*Hermeneutics* is the study of correct methods of interpretation.

*Exegesis* is the process of interpreting a text of Scripture.

So, *exegesis* is basically applying the principles of *hermeneutics* to biblical texts.

- The role of scholars:

- 1) They can \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture clearly.
- 2) They can \_\_\_\_\_ new areas of understanding the teachings of Scripture.
- 3) They can \_\_\_\_\_ the teachings of the Bible against attacks from false teachers.
- 4) They can \_\_\_\_\_ the study of Scripture for the benefit of the church.

**NECESSITY** defined:

*The necessity of Scripture means that the Bible is necessary for knowledge of the gospel, for maintaining spiritual life, and for certain knowledge of God’s will, but is not necessary for knowing that God exists or for knowing something about God’s character and moral laws.*

- The Bible is necessary for knowledge of the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Romans 10:13-17 (ESV)**

*For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*

**John 3:18 (ESV)**

*Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.*

**John 14:6 (ESV)**

*Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

- The Bible is necessary for maintaining \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matt. 4:4 (ESV)**

*But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."*

- The Bible is necessary for certain knowledge of God's \_\_\_\_\_.

**Romans 12:2 (ESV)**

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

**1 Thess. 4:3 (ESV)**

*For this is the will of God, your sanctification...*

**1 Thess. 5:18 (ESV)**

*Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

**1 Peter 2:15 (ESV)**

*For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.*

**Eph. 5:17 (ESV)**

*Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

**Deut. 29:29 (ESV)**

*"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."*

- The Bible is NOT necessary for knowing that God \_\_\_\_\_ or for knowing something about God's \_\_\_\_\_ and moral laws.

Why?

**General revelation:**

**Psalms 19:1 (ESV)**

*The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.*

**Rom. 1:19-21 (ESV)**

*For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

**Special revelation:**

**SUFFICIENCY** defined:

*Scripture contained all the words of God he intended his people to have at each stage of redemptive history, and that it now contains everything we need God to tell us for salvation, for trusting him perfectly, and for obeying Him perfectly.*

**2 Tim. 3:14-15 (ESV)**

*But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

**Psalms 119:1-3 (ESV)**

*Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways!*

**2 Tim. 3:16-17 (ESV)**

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

- We can find all that God has said on particular topics, and we can find \_\_\_\_\_ to our \_\_\_\_\_.
- The amount of Scripture given was sufficient at each stage of \_\_\_\_\_.

- Practical applications of the Sufficiency of Scripture:

- Search the \_\_\_\_\_ for answers.
- Do not \_\_\_\_\_ to Scripture.
- Do not to count any other guidance from God \_\_\_\_\_ to Scripture.
- Do not to add more \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ to those named in Scripture.
- Be \_\_\_\_\_ with Scripture.

**2 Tim. 2:15 (ESV)**

*“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”*

NEXT WEEK:

**The Character of God: Incommunicable Attributes**