

## The Word Of God Is Adequate

2 Tim 3:16-17

**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.

### **Introduction:**

- A. Many times, we hear the thought from people that the Scriptures are incomplete in their instruction to man. In talking about the teaching of the Bible, I was told by a young lady who is supposed to be a Christian, “The Bible is fine as far as it goes. It just doesn’t go far enough.”
- B. Unfortunately, many people, even those who are “Christians”, feel that way. Many think the Bible is antiquated and needs to be updated to reflect the values of society today.
- C. Yet, what does the Bible say about itself? God, speaking through the prophet Isaiah says, “**So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it**” (Isa 55:11). The text of today’s lesson points out the adequacy of the word of God. It has been delivered by God and is adequate for His purpose. It is to be received by man as enough for his needs.

### **I. What Does “Adequate” Mean?**

A. “Sufficient for a specific need or requirement” (Merriam-Webster Dictionary).

- 1. Affirming this is one thing, proving it is another.
- 2. One proof can be found in the results:
  - a. Profitable
  - b. Sufficient
  - c. Equipped

B. Adequate because of its source

1. “Inspired by God” (THEOPNEUSTOS) literally means “God-breathed”

a. Consider “God-breathed” in other events:

1) God breathed life into Adam - Gen. 2:7

**Genesis 2:7** - Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

2) Jesus breathed on the apostles - Jn. 20:22

**John 20:22** - And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

b. Hence, these occasions have the idea of imparting something to someone

1) Life to Adam

2) Spirit to Apostles

3) Scriptures to Man

2. The Scriptures as such are the production of God

### **II. What About The Scriptures Being Profitable?**

A. What about the Scriptures being “profitable?” How can this be realized?

1. For teaching

a. The activity of imparting knowledge concerning God's revelation in Christ is meant here. This is ever basic to everything else.

b. Not just any teaching, but “sound words” (2 Tim. 1:13) and “sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1).

**2 Timothy 1:13** - Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

**Titus 2:1** - But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.

c. This will make sound Christians and sound churches.

2. For reproof

a. Warnings, based on the word, need to be issued from time to time - i.e., Lk. 21:34

**Luke 21:34** - Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap;

b. Errors in doctrine and conduct must be refuted in the spirit of love - 2 Tim. 4:3-4

**2 Timothy 4:3-4** - For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

c. Dangers must be pointed out - Acts 20:28-31

**Acts 20:28-31** - Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves' men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore, be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

d. False teachers need to be exposed - 1 Jn. 4:1

**1 John 4:1** - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

3. For correction

a. Not only be reprov'd, but pointed in the right direction.

b. Anyone can oppose something. It is obligatory to show what is right - 1 Tim. 6:1-12

**1 Timothy 6:1-12** - All who are under the yoke as slaves are to regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the name of God and our doctrine will not be spoken against. Those who have believers as their masters must not be disrespectful to them because they are brethren, but must serve them all the more, because those who partake of the benefit are believers and beloved. Teach and preach these principles. If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

4. For training in righteousness

a. Every Christian needs this kind of training

b. Such training will allow prosperous returns in all other avenues - Titus 2:11-14

**Titus 2:11-14** - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior,

Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

- B. The Scriptures furnish the rules of righteous living in abundance, and thus are adequate to the whole work of recovering man from his sin, and of guiding him to heaven

### III. *To What Degree Are The Scriptures Adequate?*

- A. To the extent that the “man of God” (a Christian) lacks nothing; i.e., is “adequate, equipped for every good work” - 2 Peter 1:3

**2 Peter 1:3** - seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

- B. Will allow one to have all those qualifications which are necessary to complete the character - Gal 5:22-23

**Galatians 5:22-23** - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

- C. The Scriptures are so complete in direction that Christians do not need to cling to the unwritten traditions of their fathers, or the writings of pagan philosophers, for directions as to how to live life and worship God.
- D. Often, the student will outgrow the teacher with their knowledge. With the Scriptures, it is never the case.

### ***Conclusion:***

- A. There is nothing else that is needed for the salvation of man. Here is the revealed will of God sufficient for His purposes in the salvation of man. All that is left is for us to obey it from the heart (Rom. 6:16-18)

**Romans 6:16-18** - Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.