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## Question 21 - What is meant by the sufficiency of the Bible?

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## 101 MOST ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BIBLE

### 21. What is meant by the sufficiency of the Bible?

Theologian Wayne Grudem writes:

“We can define the sufficiency of Scripture as follows: The sufficiency of Scripture means that Scripture contained all the words of God he intended his people to have at each stage of redemptive history, and that it now contains all the words of God we need for salvation, for trusting him perfectly, and for obeying him perfectly.

“This definition emphasizes that it is in Scripture alone that we are to search for God’s words to us. It also reminds us that God considers what he has told us in the Bible to be enough for us, and that we should rejoice in the great revelation that he has given us and be content with it.

“Significant scriptural support and explanation of this doctrine is found in Paul’s words to Timothy, *‘from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus’* (2 Tim. 3:15). The context shows that ‘sacred writings’ here means the written words of Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16). This is an indication that the words of God which we have in Scripture are all the words of God we need in order to be saved: these words are able to make us wise ‘for salvation.’ This is confirmed by other passages that talk about the words of Scripture as the means God uses to bring us to salvation (James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23).

“Other passages indicate that the Bible is sufficient to equip us for living the Christian life. Once again Paul writes to Timothy, *‘All scripture is inspired 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’* (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

“Here Paul indicates that one purpose for which God caused Scripture to be written is to train us that we might ‘be equipped for every good work.’ If there is any ‘good work’ that God wants a Christian to do, this passage indicates that God has made provision in his Word for training the Christian in it. Thus, there is no ‘good work’ that God wants us to do other than those that are taught somewhere in Scripture: it can equip us for *every* good work.

“A similar teaching is found in Psa. 119: *‘Blessed are those whose way is blameless who walk in the law of the Lord!’* (v. 1). This verse shows an equivalence between being ‘blameless’ and ‘walking in the law of the Lord:’ those who are blameless

are those who walk in the law of the Lord. Here again is an indication that all that God requires of us is recorded in his written Word: simply to do all that the Bible commands us is to be blameless in God's sight.

"To be morally perfect in God's sight, then, what must we do in addition to what God commands us in Scripture? Nothing! Nothing at all! If we simply keep the words of Scripture we will be 'blameless' and we will be doing 'every good work' that God expects of us." (*Systematic Theology*, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, MI, 1994, pp. 127, 128).

The little Sunday school chorus perhaps says it best:

The B-I-B-L-E, Yes, that's the Book for me.

I stand *ALONE* on the Word of God . . . the B-I-B-L-E!