

The All-Sufficiency of the Bible

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord;” Col. 3:16.

This verse mentions *“the word of Christ,”* which clearly refers to the *“new covenant”* of which He is *“the Mediator;”* and which became effective following His death on the cross, Heb. 9:15-17. The admonition contained in our opening text is that we allow *“the word of Christ”* to dwell in us; yea that it dwell in us *“richly in all wisdom.”* This, of course, does not happen by accident; it occurs by design. For *“the word of Christ”* to dwell in us, we must study. For it to dwell in us *“richly,”* we must study, study, study!

But **why** is it so important that we take the necessary steps to make it possible for *“the word of Christ”* to dwell in us? Many reasons could be cited, but in this article we shall mention two reasons in particular. It is important for the *“word of Christ”* to *“richly”* dwell in us because: (1) The word of God is Complete, and (2) the things *“for”* which the Scriptures are *“profitable.”*

The Word of God is Complete!

The Old Testament, in its fullness, had already been revealed when Jesus was born. In fact, the Old Testament, briefly summarized as *“the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms,”* looked forward to the coming of Jesus, the Messiah, and they spoke *“concerning”* Jesus, Luke 24:44. Jesus came to *“fulfill”* the *“law”* and *“the prophets,”* including every *“jot”* and every *“tittle,”* Matt. 5:17-18. He accomplished that objective, so much so, that in His final words upon the cross, He cried out saying, *“It is finished;”* then *“bowing His head, He gave up the Spirit;”* John 19:30.

Jesus, during His earthly ministry, selected 12 disciples, or apostles, who would succeed Him, and continue to preach the gospel following the ascension of Jesus into heaven, Luke 24:46-53. During His earthly ministry Jesus sustained a very close relationship with His apostles, He sought to prepare them to continue His work following his ascension to heaven. Thus He taught them *“many things,”* yea, all things they were then *“able to bear,”* John 16:12. He also informed them that upon His return to the Father in heaven He would send *“the Helper, the Holy Spirit,”* Who would teach them *“all things”* and bring to their *“remembrance all things that”* He had said to them, John 14:26; 15:26. Jesus further assured His disciples that when *“He, the Spirit of truth has come, He will guide you into all truth...,”* John 16:13. The point is clear: if Jesus told the truth in that verse, then *“all truth”* would have been revealed by the time His apostles had all died. And you can be sure that Jesus *“Who committed no sin,”* I Peter 2:22, and Who is *“the way, the truth, and the life,”* John 14:6, told the truth! In fact, the apostle Peter affirmed that *“His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness...,”* 2 Pet. 1:4. That being the case, then all modern claims of *“progressive revelation,”* or that God is leading people into additional spiritual truth than that which is recorded in the Bible are blatantly false!

The Scriptures are *“Profitable For:”*

The apostle Paul affirmed that *“all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work,”* 2 Tim. 3:16-17.

Please take note that *“all Scripture is given by inspiration of God!”* *“Inspiration”* is translated from *theopneustos* (Greek), which is made up of *“theos,”* meaning *“God,”* and *pneustos*, meaning *“to breathe.”* *“The compound word means ‘God-breathed’”* (Weust in **Word Studies of the Greek New Testament**). The true idea of *“inspiration”* is set forth in Matt. 4:4, wherein Jesus told Satan, *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”* Yes, the Scriptures are inspired in that they came *“from the mouth of God!”* And inasmuch as it is *“impossible for God to lie,”* Heb. 6:18, then you may be assured that God’s *“word is truth,”* John 17:17!

1. The Scriptures are “profitable for doctrine,” 2 Tim. 3:16. *“Doctrine”* denotes that which is taught. Literally, it means *“teaching material”* (Weust). Obviously nothing should be taught as *“doctrine”* which was not given by *“inspiration of God!”* This necessarily eliminates the teaching of human creeds, manuals, disciplines, catechisms, or the doctrines and commandments of men!

2. The Scriptures are “profitable” for “reproof,” 2 Tim. 3:16. *“Reproof”* is from *elochos* (Greek), and it means to convict. God’s word contains all that is needed in order to convict people of sin, as was evidenced in Acts 2:37, wherein after Peter had preached the gospel to the people gathered in Jerusalem on Pentecost, the text says *“Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?”* They had been reprovved — reprovved by the word of God!

3. The Scriptures are profitable “for correction,” 2 Tim. 3:16. *“Correction”* is translated from a Greek word, which denotes *“a restoration to an upright or right state,”* Vine. By the Scriptures every error can be detected and corrected. Illustrating this point, we mention the example of a man named Clyde Thompson. At age 17, Clyde was sentenced to death for murder. At age 19, in 1931, he was placed on death row in Huntsville, Texas, the youngest ever at that time in Texas to be sentenced to death. Supposedly, he had 60 days to live. While on death row he killed four more people. Two days before his scheduled execution he received a stay of execution. He was not a good prisoner. He was tagged by his own prison mates as *“the meanest man in the State of Texas.”* But a prison guard said, *“Clyde, you don’t have anything to read in there; I would bring you a Bible if you promise not to tear it up.”* Clyde said, *“you are right, I have nothing to read. I would take a Bible.”* He took the Bible and read it, and read it; he began to memorize and meditate upon the Scriptures. A great change came over Clyde Thompson, so much so, that he received a life time parole. Clyde not only was baptized *“into Christ,”* Gal. 3:27; he also baptized over 1,600 people, becoming one of the most effective soul winners of his generation! His life demonstrated the fact that the scriptures are profitable *“for correction!”*

4. The Scriptures are profitable for “instruction in righteousness,” 2 Tim. 3:16. *“Instruction”* is from *paideia*, which literally means *“training by act and discipline.”* *“Righteousness”* is from *dikaionsune*, which is defined as *“the character or quality of being right or just,”* Vine. Proper *“instruction in righteousness”* does not come from a man-made creed book, church manual or catechism; it comes from the word of God! It can make us what we ought to be!

The End Result:

This is stated in verse 17: “*That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*”

Conclusion: Yes, the Bible is fully sufficient to accomplish its God-intended purpose. Indeed, the sacred scriptures constitute “*the perfect law of liberty,*” James 1:25. It must be studied and “*rightly*” divided, 2 Tim. 2:15. It must be obeyed, Matt. 7:21. Believed, studied, obeyed, and correctly followed, it can make us happy, both in the here and in the hereafter. Hence, we conclude this article with Paul’s admonition to the elders at Ephesus, as recorded in Acts 20:32: “*...I commend you to God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.*” —Bobby Witherington
