

theory have discovered some tremendous new insights that will revolutionise his church. Unfortunately, this tendency to undervalue Scripture and turn instead to secular expertise on spiritual matters has been particularly effective in the area of counselling. For many years, conservative, Bible-believing Christians have been besieged by forces within the church eager to establish psychology as superior to Scripture for dealing with behavioural and emotional problems. Advocates of “Christian psychology” have been successful in convincing many—perhaps it is even accurate to say most—Christians that psychotherapy offers solutions not available to those who seek answers to emotional and spiritual problems through Scripture alone. An appalling number of Christians believe that biblical counselling is shallow, perhaps even dangerous. They have evidently bought the claim that psychology offers deeper, more up-to-date knowledge than Scripture.

The influence of such thinking on the church over the past few decades has been remarkable. Once viewed as a crucial part of church life and ministry, counselling is now handled in clinics by professionals. ..

Lay Christians, on the other hand, have been taught to think of themselves as incompetent to counsel. Even pastors seem intimidated by the psychotherapy movement. Many have simply handed over to professionals this vital pastoral responsibility.

Many evangelicals view psychotherapy with an awe that approaches reverence. Ironically, while the church is embracing psychotherapy more fervently than ever, many secular psychologists and psychiatrists are raising serious questions about the validity of their own basic presuppositions. .. We have to come back to the Word of God. Since Scripture itself claims to be sufficient, I suggest that those who say it is not are in serious error. The Word of God teaches that all Christians possess sufficient resources for genuine spiritual victory. Psychology is a counterfeit full of distortions and contradictions.

Shouldn't it be patently clear that modern psychology offers no spiritual benefit that the church lacks?

Paul sums up the matter of our spiritual sufficiency:

“Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God” (emphasis added). The King James Version states, “Our sufficiency is of God.” Expanding on that great truth later on in the same epistle, Paul writes, “God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.” The “alls” and “everys” of that verse underscore the utter comprehensiveness of God's provision. In other words, there is nothing for which you are not sufficient through the provision of God's grace. If God is to glorify Himself through us, He must provide the necessary resources.

And He does. Peter wrote, “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.”

Excerpts from an article by John MacArthur. Ask Wayne for the full article.

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Central Mountains Baptist Church

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The Bible is Sufficient

There is a subtle but persuasive strategy unfolding today among those who call themselves evangelical Christians. It is an attempt to deny the role of Scripture as the only source for spiritual truth. The church seems to have bought into the notion that God's Word doesn't really contain all we need to know to be effective in ministry. Many pastors and church leaders are turning to other sources to find “deeper” truth than they suppose Scripture contains.

But before analysing these other sources, let me pose a basic question. What does the Bible tell us about itself?

What does the Word say that the Word contains? What does Scripture teach about the sufficiency and scope of Scripture?

Second Timothy 3:16 must settle the question of biblical sufficiency for the Christian. These verses are often thought of as an affirmation of inspiration, and they certainly are that. But notice how clearly and definitively they affirm the sufficiency of Scripture as well: “All Scripture is

inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work” (emphasis added).

There is no spiritual need that is not met in Scripture.

There is no necessary resource that is not supplied there.

No right teaching, reproof, correction, or training with regard to spiritual matters is possible apart from the all sufficient Word of God. Let's not let that great reality be swept away by the fads and clamouring of an ungodly age.

Look at how subtly Christians' confidence in the sufficiency of Scripture can be undermined.

One pastor told me he was planning to restructure his entire church according to some principles he has gleaned from the latest trends in secular business management. He believes modern students of management





People

Confidence in the Scriptures

We need three statements that will increase our trust in the Scriptures:

1. The Bible can _____ our _____ best,

Hebrews 4:1, 11-12

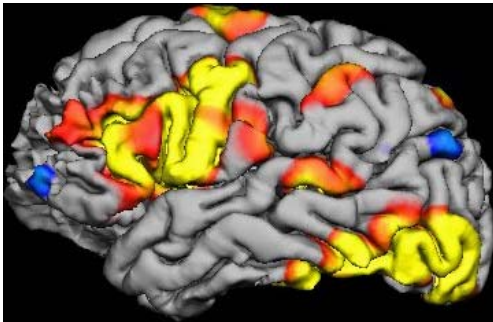
- ◆ This verse is a _____ in our quest for _____, (because...)
- ◆ The Bible's ability to _____ heart _____ is like God's ability to _____ heart _____.

(Psalms 139:2) "... You understand my thought afar off."

(Jeremiah 17:10) "I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, ..."

(1 Corinthians 14:25) "And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; ..."

(Ephesians 5:13) "But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light."

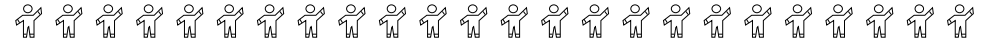


- ◆ Thus, this verse explains the _____ part of man,

2. The Bible has everything we _____ to _____ well,

(2 Peter 1:2-3) "Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,

{3} as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,"



3. We can use the Bible to _____ other,

