

**The Sufficiency of Scripture**  
**The Revelation of God - Week 9 - Summer 2019**

- **The Comprehensiveness of Scripture in Relation to Life.**

- On the first day of man's existence, God assumed authority of all of man's life, not just his religious life, in what has been called the Cultural Mandate:

***Genesis 1:28** - God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

- ▶ Man's reproductive life claimed by God (multiplying and subduing).
- ▶ So were all his cultural endeavors (taking dominion).
- As human history progressed, all of our lives were claimed again:
 

***Deuteronomy 6:5-9** - <sup>5</sup> "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup> "These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup> "You shall teach them diligently to your sons 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 up. <sup>8</sup> "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. <sup>9</sup> "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

  - ▶ Men and women were commanded to love God with their whole existence, not just in their religious practices.
  - ▶ God's commandments (how we love Him) were to be central and guiding in all of life.
- Such claims continue into New Covenant times:
 

***Matthew 28:18-20** - <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

  - ▶ Christ's authority and claim over all nations is the basis of the rest of the Great Commission.
  - ▶ Making disciples out of the nations includes not just initial conversion/baptism, but teaching the nations everything that Jesus has commanded.

- ▶ The church's discipleship of the nations is really the post-fall/redemption fulfilling of the Great Commission.
  - ❖ Yes, conversion must precede everything else.
  - ❖ But from conversion, God's people are to grow to see all of their life as directed by God.
  - ❖ This includes their "secular" activities as well:

*Colossians 3:17 - Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.*

*Colossians 3:23 - Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men.*

## - **The Scriptures Guide Believers in *All* of Life**

- God's word is sufficient to equip us for life:

*2 Timothy 3:16–17 - <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

- ▶ *Every good work, not just religious*
- ▶ God's Word provides what's necessary to live life as God would have us, in all our duties and vocations.

- Peter says something similar:

*2 Peter 1:3 - His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence.*

- The Bible, therefore, is an authoritative and sufficient guide for every aspect of a Christian's life:

*Matthew 4:4 - But he answered, "It is written, " 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "*

*Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

- The Westminster Confession on this issue:

- *(1) The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, (2) or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men. (WCF 1:6)*
- (1) - The WCF spells out what was seen above:
  - ▶ All things necessary for salvation are laid out in Scripture.
  - ▶ But the Confession tells us all things that are necessary for *life* are there too, as in daily life.
  - ▶ Now that raises some questions:
    - ❖ Does the Bible directly address every possible scenario a believer could find himself in? No.
    - ❖ Does it directly mention things like the internet, automobiles, IPAs, or poker? No.
    - ❖ A knowledge of General Revelation (creation/providence) is assumed and required for many Scriptural directives.
      - The command to not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil included the assumption that Adam knew what a tree was, what eating was, etc.
      - The command to not commit adultery assumes a knowledge of what adultery is, what marriage is, etc.
      - The statement that Jesus is the bread of life, though metaphorical, still requires a knowledge of what bread is.
      - Scripture does not directly provide the knowledge required in the scenarios above. Again, General Revelation is necessary.
    - ❖ Still, this does not mean that humans gain knowledge independently.
      - General Revelation is still God's Revelation.
      - All knowledge still comes from God.
    - ❖ So to say that the Scriptures are sufficient for all of life ultimately means the following:

- The Scriptures, and the Scriptures alone, are meant to direct everything we do.
  - And we are required to learn from General Revelation in order to best understand and apply the Scriptures.
- (2) - What the Bible doesn't directly address can (and should!) be "deduced by good and necessary consequence." Examples:
  - ▶ Stealing is wrong (Deut. 5:19) → Identify theft is stealing → Identify theft is wrong.
  - ▶ Idolatry is wrong (Ex. 20:3-4) → Eating at an idol's temple is idol worship → Eating at an idol's temple is wrong.
  - ▶ Communicating with the dead is wrong (Deut. 18:9-10) → A seance is an attempt to talk to the dead → Seances are wrong.
  - ▶ Keeping one's word is right (Psalm 15:4) → Showing up to work on time is keeping one's word → Showing up to work on time is right.
  - ▶ Jesus allowed his disciples to rest from their labors (Mark 6:31) → Time off of work is rest → Time off is righteous.
  - ▶ Murder is wrong (Ex. 20:13) → Unjust warfare involves murder → Governments should not wage unjust war.
  - ▶ Plumber Example: Imagine you are a plumber who's also a Christian.
    - ❖ The Bible still directs all of His life, including his plumbing.
    - ❖ Biblical commands for fair and honest business practices direct him to not cheat his customers.
    - ❖ Biblical commands to not be lazy direct him to work hard and efficiently.
    - ❖ Biblical commands to show love and courtesy direct him to treat his customers as kindly as possible, even if they're difficult.
    - ❖ Biblical requirements regarding church and family lead him to not let his business consume all of his life.
    - ❖ Biblical warnings about money and greed guide him away from sacrificing integrity for the sake of the next buck.

- ❖ Biblical commands to charity might encourage him to do a free emergency repair for a widow.
- ❖ Even when it comes to the technical aspects of his field, which are more in the realm of General Revelation, the Scriptures still inform and apply:
  - They direct him to work hard in his training.
  - Doing all things for Christ's name and Christ's glory leads him to be as competent as possible.
  - Even which materials he uses can be guided, at least to a degree, by a desire to do the best work at the fairest price.
- ❖ Summary:
  - No activity in this world, including plumbing (or governing!) is outside the direction of Scripture.
  - Application always involves good and necessary deductions from Scriptural principles.
  - A growing knowledge of General Revelation helps us to obey and apply the Scriptures even more.