

BC 7– You don't need New Tongues or Prophecies

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ: Manuals are ever-changing. Everywhere you work you will see bulletins describing changes in the way to fix a problem...or to do a job better. If you are a forest fire fighter, you will know there are vastly improved methods of fighting fires today than even fifty years ago. If you are a pilot, you learn there are new chemical to protect your wings from ice. Those in construction learned many building historically used too much wood but now they use less wood and make a stronger building.

But not so with the Word of God. The Word of God is the first, last, and only authority for what you believe (faith) and what you do (practice). The Word of God is your “ruler,” by which you measure things that are wrong or right. It is your manual that hasn't changed for over 3,500 years. This is what you will hear about today.

Our headings are:

God's Word is Sufficient and Unchangeable
Man' Word is Insufficient and Changeable.

Our goals are: **Learn that the Bible is sufficient for everything you believe and what you do,** that you **do not need to fear the Bible's rule, because it only does you good,** and that you will then **share this loving rule of faith and practice with others.**

We believe that those Holy Scriptures **fully contain the will of God,** and that whatsoever man ought to believe unto salvation is sufficiently taught therein. For since the whole manner of worship which God requires of us is written in them at large, **it is unlawful for any one, though an apostle, to teach otherwise** than we are now taught in the Holy Scriptures: nay, though it were an angel from heaven, as the apostle Paul says. For since it is **forbidden to add unto or take away** anything from the Word of God, it does thereby evidently appear that the doctrine thereof is most perfect and complete in all respects.

Neither **may we consider any writings of men, however holy these men may have been, of equal value** with those divine Scriptures, nor ought we to consider **custom, or the great multitude, or antiquity, or succession of times and persons, or councils, decrees or statutes, as of equal value** with the truth of God, since the truth is above all; for all men are of themselves liars, and more vain than vanity itself. Therefore we reject with all our hearts whatsoever does not agree with this infallible rule, as the apostles have taught us, saying, Prove the spirits, whether they are of God. Likewise: If any one comes unto you, and brings not this teaching, receive him not into your house.

God's Word is Sufficient and Unchangeable

1. The Bible contains the full will of God for man – not a fraction, but everything of God's will.

2Timothy 3:16-17 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.

Consider some of the specific things for which the Bible is sufficient.

a. Doctrine refers to all truth regarding man. The Bible teaches you everything you need to know about your salvation: **how to be saved, why you need to be saved, and how to live after you are saved.** Some people who argue that the Bible does not cover every area in which you need help, but the Bible is filled with principles for every conceivable area. This is just their excuse to push the Bible aside.

Remember Joyce Meyer: *“The Bible can’t even find any way to explain this. Not really. That’s why you’ve got to get it by revelation. There are no words to explain what I’m telling you. I’ve got to just trust God that He’s putting it into your spirit like He put it into mine.”* Meyer is dead wrong.

b. Reproof refers to exposing bad teaching. As long as you evaluate preaching from God’s Word, you should not be afraid to expose bad teaching. Be charitable, knowing that you are sinful too, but don’t be afraid to say what is bad teaching. Teach your children not to be uncouth...like picking their nose in public...but teach them to speak up against false doctrines!

c. Correction refers to exposing bad behavior and fixing (straightening) what was bent – or twisted. Matthew 18. It refers to the setting of broken bones.

d. Righteousness refers to things which lead to nurture and growth in your Christian walk. Do you want to know if something is wrong or right? Not sure if a dress you want to wear is appropriate? Not sure if a video game you saw at a friend’s house is appropriate? Not sure if it is okay to marry a particular person? Go to God’s Word. The Lord saved you by his Son and will guide in your life.

Psalm 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

In other words, God’s Word, believed and obeyed will make the man, woman, and child complete in their respective duty: father, mother, elder, son, prime minister, or president of TD Bank.

2. There is one particular area that you must not miss and it is most valuable thing a Christian does: Worship.

The Bible guides your worship and is sufficient to guide you. The “Anabaptists” (Pentecostals, etc.) are virtually claiming they do not really need the Scripture as long as they have the Holy Spirit. (Watch out for those who speak only of the Holy Spirit.) But you can see the foolishness of this if you were to attend their worship: It is often disorganized,

and reflects repetitive pagan or chaotic worship. Women preach. Choirs sing for the people. You find noise, puppet shows, loud music, drama, dance, ribbons, laughing fits, and flags filling their worship. This kind of worship is entertainment based and man oriented. **The Holy Spirit does not want credit for this.** No doubt you have seen God's judgment on those who worshipped him the way they wanted: Saul, Nadab, Abihu, Cain, and Korah. etc. *But, brothers and sisters: **True worship is guided by the Word of God alone.***

Exodus 25:9 "**According to all that I show you**, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, **just so you shall make it.**

3. There are some who argue that they need new revelation or that the Bible is not sufficient!

So they are virtually saying: What I think the Holy Spirit is telling me is above what the Scriptures say. And since their final authority is not the Scriptures, but feelings of what they think the Holy Spirit is saying, this has led to many religious, political, and social problems. How? Authoritative truth is changed for what the people "say" the Holy Spirit said!

The Pope, on the other hand, argues that the Bible is not sufficient, or wrong. The Pope says Mary was perfect and born perfect, yet the Bible says that all men (and women) were born in sin, and Mary pointed out her own need for salvation. Lk 1:47-48.

By saying the Bible is not sufficient or correct, they are calling God a liar, and are diminishing the value of the Bible!

4. But you are warned not to teach anything else...to add or subtract from God's Word.

Galatians 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, **let him be accursed.**

Revelation 22:18 - For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;

Worship is so precious to God that he gives much detail about it and he threatens eternal damnation in hell if one were to pollute his worship. The worst punishment is reserved for those who corrupt worship.

5. Positively, when you know that the Scriptures are sufficient and straight, you do not have to worry about whether you are doing the right thing or not.

One man: "I want to do for God what my 'gut tells me.'" But God does not want you to go on your "gut feeling" because feelings have been corrupted by sin. **A preacher said: "I will not work under anyone – except when the Holy Spirit tells me."** By doing this he rejects the Bible as the authoritative Word of God. God wants you to believe and live according to his authoritative Word he has given to you. God wants to relieve frustration in his children. What care! What mercy! What comfort to you, God's children!

6. Yet, you will admit that you don't understand all things in the Bible (which is because of your sin, not because of God) you are therefore to diligently study the Scriptures to learn.

2Peter 3:15-16 ... Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

Not only must you study the hard things, you must continue in obeying what you have learned.

2Timothy 3:14-15 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of...which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ...

Man's Word is insufficient and Changeable

1. Individual man's word is not authoritative and is not of equal value with the Bible.

Even though a man might be holy and his works helpful, his words are not authoritative. Not everything John MacArthur or John Piper have written is correct...even the godly John Calvin has written some things that make us shake our heads. It doesn't matter how much you like an author, never consider his words as equal to the Bible. These are good warning for Mormons, SDA's, and Jehovah's Witnesses who hold to or treat other writings as equal to the Holy Bible.

2. Traditions are not sufficient.

Since traditions originate from man, they reflect the weaknesses and sin of man. Are there values to traditions? Yes. But they must be considered to make sure they are not treated as equal to the Bible. Furthermore, there are some traditions that are quite silly, like whether the elders must sit together or with their families in the worship service. Those things are not authoritative.

3. Successions of times and persons...like Popes and kings are not sufficient or equal to God's Word.

These people claim a God-given right to rule and to make law, but this is false. The Pope is not the "Vicar of Christ" as he claims to be. Kings do not have a **divine right** to pass on their authority to their children.

4. Collective groups of religious men (councils – even Reformed councils) are not sufficient.

The Roman Catholics teach that the Bible is dark and only the church could explain it, so for more than a thousand years, the Roman Catholic banned members from reading the Bible. But the church does not control truth...only God's Word does. Some are trying to remove the Bible again from the people.

5. Ancient writing and men are not authoritative; not because they are old that they are better.

If you have trained your children well, you will see that they are becoming wiser than you.

6. Why is man's Word not sufficient and authoritative as the Bible?

a. Men are liars.

Revelation 2:2 "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;

b. Men promote themselves.

Philippians 2:21 For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus.

c. Men will reject that which their sinful hearts do not agree.

Conclusion:

God's Word is sufficient, and clear in all things necessary for your salvation, your growth in grace, and for the fulfillment of your duties.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Love God's Word. Don't fear it. In it you will learn how to gain the benefits from it. Learn of Jesus' love for you. Learn how he lived for you. Learn how he died for you.

2. Reject those who bring false Words and try to pass those words off as authoritative words from God. Don't invite them into your house (except to teach them). Don't allow them into your hearts.

3. Learn from good writers, just like you can learn from the Apocrypha, but put their value into perspective. The writings of men tend to sneak up in importance. Man's word can be more sympathetic to sin and more opposed to penalties for sin.

4. Tell God's Words to others. Don't keep these precious treasures for yourself.

Finally, if you want to use God's Word for his purposes, you need to make sure Christ is Lord of your life. When he is, then you will believe and practice everything in his Word. How does he become Lord of your life? You submit to him and ask him to take away your sins and restore you into a right relationship with the Father.