



Introduction

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Main Point: We are called to stand firm on the fact that Scripture tells us what is _____, exhorts of us what is _____, and provides for us what is _____.

Is Scripture Good?

What’s at Stake?

Throughout redemptive history, people have fallen into various errors as a result of failing to acknowledge the attributes of Scripture, thereby devaluing it as the authority for faith (*what* is to be believed) and practice (*how* we are to live). When Scripture is relegated to a place of lesser authority, we tend to elevate tradition, experience, or feelings to the place of ultimate authority in our lives.

The Attributes of Scripture

Any systematic study of theology will include the study of the attributes of God Himself. Because Scripture is inspired by God, its attributes are a reflection of Him and it communicates what He intends.

“God, who is Himself Truth and speaks truth only, has inspired Holy Scripture in order thereby to reveal Himself to lost mankind through Jesus Christ as Creator and Lord, Redeemer and Judge. Holy Scripture is God’s witness to Himself.”

—The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy

1. _____

“The Scriptures contain everything we need for knowledge of God and holy living. We don’t need any new revelation...”

—Kevin DeYoung, *Taking God at His Word*

Heb. 1:1-3—¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

2 Tim. 3:15, 17—¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus...¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

⇒ The doctrine of the *sufficiency* of Scripture does not deny the important role of the Spirit in illumination (John 14:26; Eph. 1:18). It does, however, recognize that Scripture should not be detracted from or added to (Rev. 22:18-19)

2. _____

“The saving message of Jesus Christ is plainly taught in the Scriptures and can be understood by all who have ears to hear it.”

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Rom. 10:8-10—⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

John 5:39-40—³⁹ You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, ⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

⇒ The doctrine of the *clarity* of Scripture does not imply that all things are taught in an equally clear manner (2 Pet. 3:16). Rather, in matters of necessity the Scripture gives light and understanding to all (Psa. 119:105,130).

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Psa.138:2—I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.

⇒ The doctrine of the *authority* of Scripture means that what it teaches about God, ourselves, and the world makes us responsible before Him in what we are to believe and in how we are to live (Rom. 3:23; 6:23). It also means that it is powerful to accomplish that which God intends (Isa. 55:11).

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“General revelation is not enough to save us. We cannot know God savingly by means of personal experience or human reason. We need God’s word to tell us how to live, who Christ is, and how to be saved.”—Kevin DeYoung, *Taking God at His Word*

1 Cor. 2:6-13—⁶ Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷ But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

⁹ But, as it is written, “WHAT NO EYE HAS SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD, NOR THE HEART OF MAN IMAGINED, WHAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM”—¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

¹¹ For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

⇒ The doctrine of the necessity of Scripture means that we can go nowhere else and to none else but the Lord if we are to have life eternal (John 6:68-69).

Key Point: To acknowledge these attributes is to rightly recognize that God has revealed Himself through the Scriptures so that we might _____ and _____ Him in the world He has made.

“The power of Scripture corresponds to God’s control, its authority to His authority, and its clarity to His presence.”
—John Frame, *The Doctrine of the Word of God*.

The Goodness of Scripture

God’s goodness is shown in the accounts of His redemptive acts as well as in His instructions to His people. In spite of this, the goodness of Scripture is perhaps the attribute that most questioned by the unbelieving world.

Common Objections

1. **Scripture contains many commands that seem arbitrary and strange.**

Duet. 22:11—You shall not wear cloth of wool and linen mixed together.

Lev. 5:15—“If anyone commits a breach of faith and sins unintentionally in any of the holy things of the Lord, he shall bring to the Lord as his compensation, a ram without blemish out of the flock...”

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2. **Scripture condones immoral actions.**

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3. **Scripture is oppressive and causes harm.**

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Key Point: God’s instructions are neither arbitrary nor immoral but are given for our _____.

Concluding Thought

To accept that God has revealed Himself in Scripture and to respond accordingly is the height of _____, but to reject it is the height of _____ and _____.

Prov. 1:2-5,6—² To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight,

³ to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity;

⁴ to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth—

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