

# BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE

DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES



IS THE BIBLE RELEVANT FOR  
TODAY'S COUNSELING  
PROBLEMS?

TRACK I.1  
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# DEFINITION OF SUFFICIENCY

Grudem: *The sufficiency of Scripture means that Scripture contained all the words of God he intended his people to have at each stage of redemptive history, and that it now contains all the words of God we need for salvation, for trusting him perfectly, and for obeying him perfectly.*





# CHALLENGES TO SUFFICIENCY

Challenge #1: Our culture is so different than the Biblical world, Scripture is no longer relevant.

Challenge #2: We know more about the human condition than Biblical authors did.

Challenge #3: Those who hold to sufficiency believe \_\_\_\_\_.

Challenge #4: Scripture cannot be understood.



# THE NEED FOR SPECIAL REVELATION (vv.1-2)

1. Needed because of our design (Adam).

# Adam's State @ Creation

## (Perfect)

Vertical	Purity – no sin, intimacy w/ God
Internal	Peace-of heart/mind/soul, conscience
	Pleasure-comfort-no pain/grief
	Plans-always met-no disappointment
Horizontal	Personal relationships-no conflict
External	Provision-all needs met-no wants
	Protection-perfect safety, justice
Two aspects of humanity - physical & spiritual	

# Adam's state at Creation

God gave Adam EVERYTHING he needed  
Physically in the GARDEN

God gave Adam EVERYTHING he needed  
Spiritually thru His WORD

Man shall live...  
by every word from  
God's mouth... Matt.4:4

# God created Adam to be RELIANT **Not Autonomous!**

- Intelligent, but incomplete; never intended to understand himself or his world **apart from God's Special Revelation**
- Didn't know his...
  - Identity
  - Purpose
  - Needs

# Adam needed Counsel *before sin*

- 28 ...*And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply & fill the earth & subdue it & have dominion ...”* 29 *And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant..., & every tree... You shall have them for food.*



# Intelligent, yet **I**ncomplete

Our need for Special Revelation (God's Word) isn't due to our sin, rather because we are designed this way... **needy, dependant, not autonomous.**

Before the Fall, (by design), Adam was ignorant of vital truths about himself & his world and was unable to know them apart from Special Revelation, (God's Word).

God never intended for us to answer the deepest questions of life from General Revelation.

# Another “Counselor”

*Did God  
actually say?*

*God’s Word must not be  
enough to help me...*

*I must need more than  
what God has already  
revealed ...*



Did He tell  
us enough?

Did He withhold  
something we need  
to know?

# Results of Listening to “another counselor”

**<sup>5</sup> “Cursed is the man who trusts  
in man and makes flesh his strength, whose  
heart turns away from the Lord. <sup>6</sup> He is like a  
shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good  
come. He shall dwell in the parched places of  
the wilderness, in an  
uninhabited salt land. ...**

ESV Jer.17:5-6



# Human Wisdom is Unreliable

- "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately sick;

Who can understand it? ...

"I, the LORD,

search the heart, I test the mind,



**ESV Jer. 17:9-10a**





# THE NEED FOR SPECIAL REVELATION (vv.1-2)

1. Needed because of our design (Adam).
2. Needed because of our condition.
3. Needed because of our inability to comprehend general revelation





# THE PROVISION OF SPECIAL REVELATION (VV.3-5)

1. Special Revelation was made to human authors by God through His Spirit
2. Special Revelation contained new information
3. Special Revelation is confirmed by the work of the Spirit in our hearts



# THE RESPONSE TO SPECIAL REVELATION (v.6)

Grudem, Wayne, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (pp. 130-131). Zondervan.

1. The sufficiency of Scripture should encourage us as we try to discover what God would have us to think (about a particular doctrinal issue) or to do (in a particular situation).
2. The sufficiency of Scripture reminds us that we are to add nothing to Scripture, and that we are to consider no other writings of equal value to Scripture.
3. The sufficiency of Scripture also tells us that God does not require us to believe anything about himself or his redemptive work that is not found in Scripture.





# THE RESPONSE TO SPECIAL REVELATION (v.6)

Grudem, Wayne, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (pp. 130-131). Zondervan.

4. With regard to living the Christian life, the sufficiency of Scripture reminds us that nothing is sin that is not forbidden by Scripture either explicitly or by implication.
5. The sufficiency of Scripture also tells us that nothing is required of us by God that is not commanded in Scripture either explicitly or by implication.
6. The sufficiency of Scripture also tells us that nothing is required of us by God that is not commanded in Scripture either explicitly or by implication.



# SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

- Summarize your main take-aways from this session, especially noting any areas that were either unclear to you or that you might disagree.
- *Fundamentals of the Faith Workbook*, lesson #1. Be sure to listen to the audio message first at [gty.org/fof](http://gty.org/fof)





# GOING DEEPER

- Psalm 19; Psalm 119
- Five audio messages entitled “The Sufficiency of Scripture” @ [www.gty.org/radio/archive](http://www.gty.org/radio/archive)
- Pamphlet: Why Biblical Counseling, Craig Rowe
- Paperback: What to Do on Thursday, Jay E. Adams
- Paperback: Unleashing God’s Word in Your Life, John MacArthur
- Book: Think Biblically, John MacArthur





# NEXT CLASSES

- I.2 A Biblical Understanding of the Basic Nature of Man, September 17— Ben Davidson
- I.3 The Gospel and Your Identity, September 24—Mike Chambers
- I.4 What is My Purpose in Life?, October 1—Kent Kloter