



## THE SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE

Priscilla Howe writes concerning The Bible, “THIS BOOK contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable.

READ IT TO BE WISE, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler’s map, the pilgrim’s staff, the pilot’s compass, the soldier’s sword, and the Christian’s charter. Here Paradise is restored, Heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed.

CHRIST IS ITS GRAND SUBJECT, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet.

READ IT SLOWLY, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened at the judgment, and be remembered for ever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and condemns all who trifle with its sacred contents.” [Benjamin R. DeLong, Uncle Ben’s Quotebook (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1987), p57]

### WE WILL SEEK TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- What is meant by the term Sufficiency of Scripture or the Bible? Why is the Sufficiency of Scripture important? How does the Sufficiency of Scripture affect us?
- What is meant by the term Sufficiency of Scripture? Sufficiency means the state or fact of being adequate for a purpose, proof or protection.
- What is meant by the term Scripture? The term Scripture refers to those sacred writings where God as the author used men to write down what He guided them to do so. The Lord used around forty men over a period of close to fourteen hundred years (1400 BC - 100 AD ) from different cultures, languages and backgrounds to tell what He wanted Man to know . The Scriptures as given are divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament provides us with and is divided into The Law, The Prophets and The Writings. The New Testament provides us with and is divided into The Gospels (concerning Christ) , The Acts of the Apostles, The Epistles of the Apostles and the Prophecy of Revelation.

The word Bible refers to the 66 books of Scripture. An acrostic for word BIBLE is Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.

The Bible is sufficient or adequate enough to provide us with how we can obtain eternal life and live with God forever in heaven as well as how we are to live our everyday life for God on earth.

The Bible shows us how to have eternal life. Jesus, God’s Son states the following as recorded in John 3:15-17, “15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not

perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”

Let us note that Jesus teaches eternal life is obtainable because God the Father so loved this world of mankind that He gave His Son as the means for man to go to be with forever with Him by simple childlike faith in the person and work of His dear Son.

The Apostle Paul reinforces this truth that eternal life is a gift that is acquired through The Lord Jesus Christ. Paul states in Romans 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” We see that eternal life is a gift from what the Scriptures teach!

Paul later on in that book of Romans instructs us on how exactly someone receives that gift of eternal life as given in Romans.

**ROMANS 10:9-10, 13, 17** *9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

We find that a person acquires eternal life by believing in and on The Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, they believe in the historical truth that Christ died, was buried and rose from the dead who provides the means for one’s sins to be forgiven and to be given eternal life. They believe God gave His Son as a sacrificial substitute on their behalf by living a perfect righteous life as well as dying for their sins and iniquities. They acknowledge the work of the cross was accepted by God the Father as the Son was raised from the dead. So a person believes the truth of the Gospel and thereby gets right with God by agreeing with and conceding to this wonderful news and appeals to God that they personally desire, ask for and accept this gift of eternal life which God offers.

For one to believe and receive the Good News of the Gospel of Eternal Life they find out about it by first hearing the Word of God.

An acrostic for the word Faith is Forsaking All I Trust Him!

The Apostle John connects eternal life with what you do with the Son of God as stated in I John 5:11-13, “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”

So the Bible teaches us on how we can obtain eternal life and be with God forever in heaven someday.

However, the Bible also instructs us on how we can live every day for God on earth. The Bible teaches and provides us with all the knowledge and the counsel we need to know on how to live for God everyday as a man, woman, husband, wife, mother, father, son, daughter, parent, child, employer, employee, citizen, and friend.

King David writes how God has revealed Himself by His world in Psalm 19:1-6, and He writes how God has revealed Himself by His Word in Psalm 19:7-11.

**PSALM 19:7-11** *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward."*

In verse 7a we see that the law of Lord leads one to the conversion or salvation because one sees he cannot live up to God's requirements. Paul backs up this claim in Romans 3:20, "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin." So God's law points to the fact that man needs God's help in order for him be right with God. God meets this need of man in the person and work of His Son, Jesus Christ, as stated in 2 Cor. 5:21, "For he (God) hath made him (Jesus Christ) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him (Jesus Christ)."

In verse 7b we see that LORD's Word continually provides wisdom on how man is to behave himself. In verse 8a the Bible declares what is right and produces joy and rejoicing of the heart.

In verse 8b God's commandments furnish us on how to live pure, be morally clean and grant us spiritual insight as to Who God is and who we are.

In verse 9a the Bible instructs man to revere God which will continue for now and for eternity. In verse 9b the Bible decrees are real and are just.

In verse 10a we find that the Bible is priceless and in 10b we find that it is a great delight!

In verse 11a the Bible contains warnings for us on what not to do and avoid, etc. In verse 11 b the Word of God encourages us that when we continue to obey it we will be wonderfully blessed and immensely compensated.

The psalmist tells us in Psalm 119:11, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." That is, the Bible helps the believer to know what pleases and displeases God. Therefore, the child of God because of the sufficiency of Scripture can live a life that is honoring to God. Psalm 119:105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path," provides us knowledge and guides us as to what and how to live daily and throughout our lives for God on earth.

Paul reinforces that the truths of the Old Testament were not just written for the believers who lived in the past, but those teachings and truths have relevance and application for believers who are presently living!

**ROMANS 15:4** *For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*

The writer of Hebrews states in Hebrew 4:12, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Therefore, the Bible is alive and living. It is all powerful and so sharp and piercing, it draws a line between the invisible parts of man, his soul (who he is) and his spirit (what he is).

The Word of God penetrates and judges the very thoughts and motives of man's heart. Therefore, the Bible is living and so powerful that it moves people to action which results in them either

accepting or rejecting God and what He states on what to do to have eternal life and on how to live life every day.

Isaiah proclaims that when God's Word is read or taught or preached, it accomplishes what God Himself wants it to do as given in Isaiah 55: 11, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

Paul in his last writing to Timothy encourages him, and us as well, by declaring:

**2 TIMOTHY 3:15-17** *And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 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 perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."*

Timothy had been taught the Word of God by a godly mother and grandmother and Paul tells him that it is through hearing the Bible people come to salvation through the person and work of Christ. It is by GRACE (God's Riches At Christ's Expense) through FAITH (Forsaking All I Trust Him) one receives forgiveness of their sin and eternal life.

Paul goes on to say that ALL the Scriptures (the Sacred Writings) are inspired by God and the writers were moved by God's Spirit to write down what God wanted as He guided them. So the Bible is God's Very Own Word! Therefore because they are God given writings they provide us with the following: doctrine (that is what is right), reproof (that is what is not right or what is wrong) , correction (how we get right), and instruction (how to stay right). The words "perfect" and "thoroughly furnished" speak about the Bible having been, is now, and will continue to be complete in providing all that man needs to know about on how to please God.

The Bible is and does completely give mankind what he needs to know about God on how to live with Him forever as well as how to live on earth for Him now! The Bible is truly sufficient or adequate and grants the counsel for all that is required for us to know about God as we live our lives on earth and as we look forward to living forever with Him!

Jesus sets for us a tremendous example in dealing with temptations, tests and trials of life by displaying how we are to live our everyday lives on earth. Jesus believes, quotes and applies the book of Deuteronomy to his current situation that he faced in as He lived on earth by stating three times in Matthew 4, "It is written..." The meaning of that tense of that word "written" affirms that it was true and relevant when it was first written by Moses, it is still true and relevant for Jesus in His time and it continues to be true and relevant in the future. This teaches us that the Bible never ceases in being alive, powerful and relevant for us.

We find that not only is the Bible sufficient because it makes known to us how to obtain eternal life, how to live everyday life, but God declared that nothing more nor less is required and therefore God Himself ended the written Word!

The Bible as God's Word is not be tampered with by either adding to it or subtracting as stated clearly in Revelation 22:18-19, "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

The Written Word ends with the promise by Jesus Himself that He someday will return to earth and with the prayer of the Apostle John asking Jesus to come and that grace be given to all those who are alive now to know and grow in Christ until He comes again!

**REVELATION 22:20** *He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*

We also discover that the Scriptures have ended but nevertheless supply us with the knowledge in how to gain eternal life and how to live everyday life. However they actually exist for eternity as taught by both the Old and New Testaments. The prophet Isaiah affirms the eternity of the Word of God in Isaiah:

**ISAIAH 40 :7-8** *The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever."*

The Apostle Peter reinforces the truth that one is regenerated by receiving salvation or eternal life by hearing the Word of God and as well as reaffirming the eternity of the Word of God by quoting Isaiah 40:7-8 as given in the following passage:

**PETER 1:22-25** *Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.*

Therefore we have found and conclude that the Bible is sufficient or adequate to provide mankind with all the knowledge he needs to know on how to obtain eternal life with God and on how to live everyday for God.

## **U.S. MARINE CORPS RIFLE CREED**

This is my rifle. There are many like it, but this one is mine.

My rifle is my best friend. It is my life. I must master it as I must master my life.

My rifle, without me is useless. Without my rifle I am useless. I must fire my rifle true. I must shoot straighter than my enemy who is trying to kill me. I must shoot him before he shoots me. I will...

My rifle and myself know that what counts in this war is not the rounds we fire, the noise of our burst, nor the smoke we make. We know that it is the hits that count. We will hit...

My rifle is human, even as I, because it is my life thus, I will learn it as a brother. I will learn its weaknesses, its strengths, its parts, its accessories, its sights and its barrel. I will ever guard it against the ravages of weather and damage. I will keep my rifle clean and ready, even as I am clean and ready.

We will become part of each other... We will!

Before God I swear this creed. My rifle and myself are the defenders of my country. We are the masters of our enemy. We are the saviors of my life.

So be it, until victory is America's and there is no enemy, but peace!

## **CHRISTIAN SOLDIER'S BIBLE CREED**

*Modeled after the U.S. Marine Corps Rifle Creed*

*By: Pastor Louis Ginac*

This is my Bible: there are many like it but this one is mine.

My Bible, next to Christ, is my best friend. They are my life. I must master my Bible as I must master my life.

My Bible without me is useless. Without my Bible I am useless.

I must use my Bible effectively. Like a sword I must use it like a weapon to fight my enemy who is trying to kill me.

I must defeat him before he defeats me... I will!

My Bible and myself know that what counts in this warfare is not the physical; the flesh and blood, but the spiritual.

It's not the noise of our battle nor outward appearance that is important.

What really counts in this spiritual warfare are the victories won in Christ.

We will get victory... We will!

My Bible, God's Word, is eternal even as I with my life hidden in Christ.

Unlike my Bible, I am human. Since I am human I must learn and know my Bible, it must become closer to me than a brother.

I will learn its history, its prophecies, its poetry, I will learn its commands and directions, its exhortations, its doctrines so that I may be instructed in righteousness.

I will ever guard my Bible against dust and the elements which could damage its pages.

I will keep my Bible clean and ready to serve Christ.

We will become part of each other; I will hide it in my heart... I will!

Before the Lord I swear this creed.

My Bible and myself are the defenders of our faith.

We are the victors of the enemy. We, with Christ can do all things!

So be it until we sleep in Jesus or the Rapture of the Church may come and there is peace for the believer!