



[5] What Is the Bible? | October 26, 2014

John 17:17 *Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.* NIV

Recap: so far we've looked at:

- 1) Ways that we can know what is true and the truth claims of God
- 2) How God reveals Himself to us, by "general" revelation and "special" revelation
- 3) What God is like from Scripture, His attributes that we share and those that belong to Him alone
- 4) The nature of mankind: created in God's image, guilty with sin, redeemable by Jesus – who is the "second Adam"

This week, we'll look at God's written Word, the Bible.

From our [Affirmation of Faith](#):

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God,
fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts,
written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that
it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

Authority - do I need to obey the Bible?

The authority of Scripture means that all the words written in Scripture are God's words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God.

[Q] Read [1 John 2:3-6](#). How does John describe the mark of someone who knows God? How does he emphasize the importance of obeying the authority of God's Word?

God claims the words of Scripture as His own and the Bible affirms that it is the very words of God.

- We are to seek to understand those words, for in doing so, we are seeking to understand God himself.
- We are to seek to trust the words of Scripture, for in doing so, we are seeking to trust God himself.
- We are to seek to obey the words of Scripture, for in doing so, we are seeking to obey God himself.

Wayne Grudem, *Christian Beliefs*

Necessity - do I need to know what the Bible says?

The necessity of Scripture means that the Bible is necessary for knowledge of the gospel, for maintaining spiritual life, and for certain knowledge of God's will, but is not necessary for knowing that God exists or for knowing something about God's character and moral laws.

[Q] According to the following Scriptures, why do we need God's word?

Romans 10:13-17

Matthew 4:4

Psalm 119:28, 105

Deuteronomy 29:29

2 Timothy 3:15

Sufficiency – is God’s Word enough?

The sufficiency of Scripture means it contains everything we need God to tell us for salvation, for trusting Him perfectly, and for obeying Him perfectly.

[Q] Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. In these verses, how is the authority of Scripture described? The sufficiency of Scripture?

Apply God’s Word

[Q] Describe the importance of the Bible in your own life.

[Q] What have you found helpful to build Scripture in to your heart, mind, and walk with God? How will you increase your hunger for God’s Word?

[Q] What are some encouraging ways to share the Word of God with other believers? With those who don’t know God yet?

Deuteronomy 6:6-7: *And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, 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.* (ESV)

Family resources related to this week’s sermon: valleycommunity.cc/resources/faithathome/faithathomebelieve

Pray

Reminder: Community Service Day is Sat, Nov. 1. valleycommunity.cc/ministries/outreach/community-service-day