

Authority and Sufficiency of Scripture

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Introduction.

- A. This past year has proved to be a major turning point in the Navigators.
 - B. Most of the objectives I inherited have been fulfilled.
 - C. Now we need new insight and direction to evaluate where God wants us to go and where I should minister personally. Fundamental truths are true for anyone, not just Navigators.
- I. There are three basic principles we must live by which are more important than anything else.
- A. The word of God is to be taken seriously.
 - 1. Dawson Trotman was converted through Scripture memory.
 - 2. Believing the promises of God is essential to serving God.
 - 3. The early Navigators often spent 4-6 hours a day studying the Bible.
 - 4. Scripture memory courses and other Bible correspondence courses are critical.
 - 5. The Bible is a map for obedience and for conduct.
 - 6. There are sly inroads trying to get us off course. (Genesis 3)
 - 7. There is a three fold division of authority of Scripture
 - a. Evangelical.
 - b. Traditional which states tradition supplies what is lacking in Scripture.
 - c. Subjective view makes man's opinion the authority of truth.
 - 1. Some try to improve in Christ.
 - 2. Some try to rewrite Scripture.
 - 3. A friend went to seminary and found his confidence in the Scripture waning, and his effectiveness waned also. When he repented and asserted the authority of Scripture he again became a soul winner.
 - 8. God spoke in many ways but in these last days he speaks through his Son in the word. (Hebrews 1)
 - a. Christ is our authority but we know him through his Word.
 - b. If we want to know Christ we must know his Word.

B. Authority is defined as the property which demands faith and obedience in all its declarations.

1. It's not for me to decide what to believe and not to believe but to submit to the illumination of the Scriptures under the power of the Holy Spirit.

- a. The Scriptures repeat that it is the Lord who speaks. (Isaiah 42:5)
- b. Jesus explained his ministry through the Scriptures. (Luke 24:25-27)
- c. Peter explained his ministry in light of the Scriptures. (2 Peter 1:16-21)
- d. The testimony of Jesus is that his word will not pass away. (Matthew 24:35)
- e. He who rejects Christ will be judged by the word. (John 12:48)
- f. Paul explained his ministry in light of the word. (1 Thessalonians 2:13)
- g. Ignorant and unstable people distort the word. (2 Peter 3:15-16)

2. What do we do about the authority of Scripture?

a. We accept it by faith because we cannot resolve the intellectual problems.

1. Billy Graham had questions from time to time.

2. He got down on his knees and accepted the truth of the word by faith.

b. We need to obey the word by faith. (John 7:17)

1. We don't think our way to faith.

2. We obey our way to faith.

3. The Bible fits into life as I find it.

4. Obedience and application reaffirms the truthfulness of the Bible.

5. God does not satisfy curiosity seekers but rewards them that seek him.

c. We need to use the word of God.

1. You don't need to defend the lion just let him loose.

2. The word is like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces. (Jeremiah 23:29)

3. A backslidden friend of mine told me to not share the Bible with him so I merely quoted him Ecclesiastes on judgment. (Ecclesiastes 11:9)

4. Do we really believe the word is authoritative?

C. The sufficiency of Scripture is also important. (2 Timothy 3:14)

1. Faith in Christ saves us but the word of God leads to him.
2. Scripture is profitable for teaching, correcting and for training in righteousness.
3. Secular counselors define problems, but the Scripture has the answers.
4. Scripture is sufficient to bring a person to salvation. (Luke 16: 27-31)
5. Jesus explained his resurrection in light of the Scriptures. (Luke 24:27, 45)
6. Our faith needs to stand in the power of God (1 Cor 2)
7. What should we do? We need to preach the word. (2 Timothy 4:2).
8. Martin Luther was told to derive his theology from the Bible only and he did even in the face of imminent danger of his life.
 - a. We today don't usually face that kind of danger.
 - b. We face a more subtle danger of compromising the truth.

II. What does all this have to do with the Navigators?

- A. We will submit to the Scriptures illuminated by the Holy Spirit.
- B. We will not despise scholarship but will place primacy on the Scripture.
- C. Our policy and method is derived from the Scriptures.
- D. We seek to rewrite lives by the power of the Scripture by knowing and obeying it.
- E. We need to be experts at war. (Song of Solomon 3:8)