

## **Biblical Theology**

### **Unit 1: Doctrine of Scripture – Lesson 4: Clarity and Sufficiency**

#### **Clarity and Illumination**

- **Clarity**
  - The clarity of Scripture means that the Bible is written in such a way that its teachings are able to be understood by all who read it seeking God's help and being willing to follow it.
    - *Psalm 19:7; 119:105; 119:130 – A lamp, gives light, and makes wise the simple.*
    - *Romans 15:4 – "...to teach us..."*
    - *2 Timothy 3:16-17 – "Teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training...to equip."*
  
- **Illumination**
  - Illumination is the work of the Holy Spirit by which he makes the scriptures understandable and applicable to the believer's life.
    - *John 14:26 – The Holy Spirit brings understanding and teaching...*
    - *1 Corinthians 2:10-14 – Those without the Spirit cannot understand...*
    - *Ephesians 1:17-19 – Spirit of wisdom and revelation...*
  
- **Avoiding Misunderstandings and Disagreements**
  1. Careful and proper interpretation of God's word.
    - Exegesis: Thinking **contextually**.
      - What was the original author's original meaning to the original audience?
    - Hermeneutics: **Interpreting** meaning and making **application**.
      - What enduring principle of truth can be applied beyond original context?
  2. Remain aware of personal barriers to proper interpretation. (Personal pride, lack of faith, selfishness, personal agendas, wrong attitudes, cultural agendas, finite minds, etc.)
  3. Speak where scripture speaks and remain silent where scripture is silent.
  4. Interpret what is not clear by what is clear.

#### **Sufficiency**

- Definition: 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 everything we need God to tell us for salvation, for trusting him perfectly, and for obeying him perfectly.
  - *Scriptural Basis:*
    - *Psalm 1:1-3 – Sufficient nourishment*
    - *James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23 – Sufficient for salvation*
    - *2 Timothy 3:15-17 – Sufficient to teach, rebuke, correct and train...*
    - *Rev 22:18-19 – Sufficient, needing no additions or subtractions.*
  
- Sufficiency of Scripture
  - To know God, to recognize our sinfulness, to be saved by Jesus, to know what to believe regarding critical issues, to obey in righteousness, to be sanctified, to worship God properly, to defend our faith, to live in peace

## **Discussion Questions**

1. Define the following terms:
  - Scriptural Clarity:
  - Illumination:
2. If the doctrine of the clarity of Scripture is true, why does there seem to be so much disagreement among Christians about the teaching of the Bible?
3. Based on the doctrine of illumination, how does a Christian miss out by not studying God's word personally and instead relying solely on teachers and preachers?
4. Have you ever wished the Bible would say more than it does about a certain subject? In light of the doctrine of the sufficiency of Scripture, how would approach someone else who expressed such a wish?

## **Reading Assignment**

*Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem – Chapters 9 & 10: The Existence of God and The Knowability of God.*