



Preparing Souls To Serve The Lord

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THE ALL-SUFFICIENCY OF THE SCRIPTURES

By

Billy R. Davidson

There are so many issues which divide the religious world that it would be impossible to name them in this article. Virtually every person, one speaks with, has an opinion as to what is truth and what is not. Almost without fail such persons appeal to their feelings or what someone else told them. All too often there is absolutely no consideration given to what is revealed by inspiration of the Holy Spirit in the Bible. There are those who offer differing views as to the existence of God, His identity, the identity of Jesus of Nazareth, etc. The religious world is so divided that there is no argument which can be made to the contrary.

It would be good, and is very desirable, if all the religious world could and would be united under one banner - that of Christ. While this is claimed, it is far from being true. The real reason why this division exists is because very few regard the Scriptures as all-sufficient. Something has to be provided in addition to the Word for religious division to even exist. And, if we are to be successful in bringing about unity, it will be because we recognize the Scriptures as the one and only guide in matters of faith and practice.

Billy R. Davidson attended Freed-Hardeman University, and taught Bible at Madison Academy in Huntsville, Alabama. He has had extensive experience in radio and television, and was producer and moderator of "Know Your Bible" television program for six years in Columbus, Georgia.

He is presently working with the Central Church of Christ in Clearwater, Florida where he serves as the preacher and one of the elders. Billy teaches Bible and Song Leading classes for the school.

Question: Are the Scriptures sufficient by themselves to lead us to the salvation which is in Christ? We believe they are and anything more is contrary to New Testament teaching. Question: Do we need other sources of authority for what we do in the practice of religion? We do not believe so and will seek to emphasize the answers to these questions as we proceed.

Many Deny The All-sufficiency Of The Scriptures:

There are several modern day religions which have added to the Scriptures in various ways. Some have added traditions, others have written and published creeds (which by the way are readily available to any who may wish to

purchase them). From time to time we read of papal or ecclesiastical decrees being issued. All such then take precedence over the Scriptures. For example, if we insist on using the term "Father" in referring to a religious leader, we are going against the decree of Jesus in Matthew 23:9 - "*And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.*" In so doing we are adding to the Scriptures, thus not regarding them as all-sufficient. The simple truth is that whatever we add to or subtract from the Word as given by God indicates our attitude toward the Scriptures as to their sufficiency or lack of the same.

Many in the religious world claim to have received "additional revelations". They have been published in book form (e.g. The Book of Mormon) and such are allowed to take precedence over the Scriptures. The Mormons believe and teach that God has a body of flesh in spite of contrary teaching in John 4:24 which says, "*God is a Spirit...*" Jehovah's Witnesses deny the bodily resurrection of Jesus which Paul proves beyond question in 1 Corinthians 15. There are others who allow women preachers in spite

of what is written in First Timothy 2:11-12. We mention these to emphasize that to the extent these add to or take from God's Word, it proves the assertion they do not regard the New Testament Scriptures as all-sufficient. When anyone rejects the all-sufficiency of the Scriptures, appealing to other sources for their authority for what they teach and do, then religious division is the result. The first step towards unity will be to recognize the need for the same standard of authority, which should be the Scriptures alone!

It is our contention that "*the whole counsel of God*" (Acts 20:27) has been revealed and proclaimed by faithful men of God in the first century. Paul to the Ephesian elders indicated he had held back nothing from them (Acts 20:20) and that would not have been possible if there had to be some later revelation. And, in giving these brethren a final exhortation, he commended them "*to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified*" (Acts 20:32). What confidence could these have had in that Word of God if it was incomplete or not sufficient?

Second Peter 1:3 says, "*According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.*" In this verse Peter wrote of how God has given "**ALL THINGS**" necessary for spiritual life and godly living. Not some things with more to follow, but "**ALL THINGS.**" He had not given some things now with more to come at a later time or place. The conclusion obviously is that all any may need for a life acceptable to God is contained in the Scriptures.

Jude 3 indicates the following: "*Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the*

common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

The American Standard Version says, "...*once for all...*" The late Guy N. Woods in his commentary on Jude, page 385, has the following comment: "The meaning is that the truth is delivered for all time, it is a permanent deposit, it will never be superceded, amended or modified. As it now stands it is a perfect, adequate, complete and inviolable deposit of truth, providing the means with which to confute the gainsayer, and resist the advocate of false doctrine." The faith was not partly revealed just for that first century generation, with something more or different to come for a later generation. Our duty today is not only to obey what has been given, but to "*earnestly contend for the faith*" and not be looking for a new faith to fit our desires or expectations.

The Scriptures supply all that is needed for our ultimate salvation. "*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, throughly furnished unto all good works*" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Not partially complete, but fully and completely "*furnished.*" Inspired of God it is profitable for: doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction. It is capable of making a person "*perfect*" (complete) before God. What more could possibly be wanted or needed? To argue that something more is needed is to say the Scriptures are not sufficient. For all such we have a very important challenge to put before you and we earnestly solicit your response. What tradition, decree of man, or modern day

revelation does any more than the inspired Word of God? If it is less, it is not enough. If it does more, it goes beyond what is written. If it does the same, it is not needed because we already have what God wanted us to have.

When we turn to the Scriptures, we find all that is needed for our salvation and to render us pleasing before God. If this Word is going to judge us, and John 12:48 says it will, then it just makes good sense to obey and follow that Word and nothing else. To do anything less or more makes no sense and cannot be supported by the Scriptures!

To the extent there are issues and doctrines which divide the religious world, then to that extent some are not recognizing the all-sufficiency of the Scriptures. We urge all to simply place their faith in the Word of God and it alone! Why? Because the whole counsel of God has been proclaimed; we have all things pertaining to life and godliness; the faith has been revealed once for all and they make us complete before God.



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The Harvesters

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TRAINING PREACHERS SINCE 1969

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1807 South Florida Avenue, Lakeland Florida 33803

Twenty-Fourth Annual Lectureship

January 18-21, 1999

Theme: What Does It Mean To Be A Christian Like Paul?

Monday	Tuesday
9:00 How Was Paul Called to Be an Apostle? Charles Burch, Sparta, TN	9:00 Did Paul Make a Mistake? Bruce Daugherty, Daytona Beach, FL
9:40 Paul: an Example to Preachers Part I, V. P. Black, Chickasaw, AL	9:40 Paul: an Example to Preachers Part II, V. P. Black, Chickasaw, AL
10:20 Break	10:20 Break
10:50 Paul Changed Religions, Could You? Carlton Hyde, Lakeland, FL	10:50 What Did Paul Teach on Fellowship? Roy Dicks, Lake City, FL
11:30 LUNCH	11:30 LUNCH —(Faculty, Student, Alumni Photos)
How Did Paul Deal With Customs?	How Did Paul Address These Issues?
1:30 Head Coverings, Holy Kiss, and Foot Washing, Terry Hightower, Sachse, TX	1:30 Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage? Terry Hightower, Sachse, TX
2:00 Offending a Weak Brother, David Watson, Orange Park, FL	2:00 Homosexuality, Tom Holland, Brentwood, TN
2:30 Became All Things to Win Souls, Keith Cozart, Hager Hill, KY	2:30 Women in Leadership, Jimmy Clark, Athens, AL
3:00 Break	3:00 Break
3:30 Questions	3:30 Questions
4:30 DINNER	4:30 DINNER
6:30 Singing	6:30 Singing
7:00 What Did Paul Teach on Water Baptism? William Kerrison, Lakeland, FL	7:00 What Was Paul's View of the Church? Landis Suggs, Branford, FL
7:45 If Brother Paul Visited ...? B. C. Carr, Lakeland, FL	7:45 What Was Paul's View of God's Word? Jimmy Clark, Athens, AL
Wednesday	Thursday
9:00 What Did Paul Teach on Tongues? Mike Elledge, Alachua, FL	9:00 How Did Paul Handle Church Funds? Earl Edwards, Henderson, TN
9:40 Paul: an Example to Preachers Part III, V.P. Black, Chickasaw, AL	9:40 Do You Teach Apostasy as Paul Did? Adron Doran, Lexington, KY
10:20 Break	10:20 Break
10:50 How Did Paul View the Second Coming of Christ? Bob Carey, Gainesville, FL	10:50 What Did Paul Teach on Grace and Works? Earl Edwards, Henderson, TN
11:30 LUNCH	11:30 LUNCH
How Did Paul Reach the Lost?	How Did Paul Solve Problems?
1:30 By Starting Congregations, Dale Flowers, Westmoreland, TN	1:30 Personal Problems, Robert Brooks, Plant City, FL
2:00 By Stabilized Congregations, Maurice Davis, Lakeland, FL	2:00 Congregational Problems, J. H. Blackman, Jr., Lakeland, FL
2:30 By Teaching Congregations to Help One Another, E. Claude Gardner, Henderson, TN	2:30 Brotherhood Problems, Leslie Bland, Jacksonville, FL
3:00 Break	3:00 Break
3:30 Questions	3:30 Questions
4:30 DINNER	4:30 DINNER
6:30 Singing	6:30 Singing
7:00 How Did Paul View Heaven? Howard Johnson, Live Oak, FL	7:00 How Did Paul Deal With False Teachers? Vernon Sirmons, Lake Panasoffkee, FL
7:45 Did Paul Emphasize Doctrine? E. Claude Gardner, Henderson, TN	7:45 Do You Have the Zeal and Perseverance of Paul? Tom Holland, Brentwood, TN

Lectureship Director—Jackie M. Stearsman (941) 683-4043

Registration Schedule

Florida School of Preaching

Fall Semester Begins August 24, 1998

Date _____ Phone _____
 Name _____ S.S.# _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check Classes Desired

Hours	Course	Instructor	Credit
Monday ___ 8:30 to 12:00 ___ 1:00 to 4:15	Hebrews and Galatians 21343	Davis	3
	Introduction to the Old Testament 31379	Burgett	3
Tuesday ___ 8:30 to 12:00 ___ 8:30 to 12:00 ___ 1:00 to 4:15 ___ 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.	Greek 21322	Stearsman	3
	English Grammar 11324	Kenyon	3
	Old Testament History 21339	Stilwell	3
	Hebrews and Galatians 21343	Blackman	2½
Wednesday ___ 8:30 to 12:00 ___ 1:00 to 4:15 ___ 1:00 to 4:15	Life of Paul 21362	Stearsman	3
	Topical Studies 11334	Kenyon	3
	Computer-based Bible Exegesis 31392	Stearsman	3
Thursday ___ 8:30 to 12:00 ___ 1:00 to 4:15 ___ 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.	Ezekiel and Daniel 21314	Kenyon	3
	Song Leading 11333	Davidson	3
	Minor Prophets 22346	Kenyon	2½
Friday ___ 8:30 to 12:00 ___ 1:00 to 4:15	World Religions 31375	Daugherty	3
	Sermon on the Mount 31380	Kenyon	3

Please Include \$5.00 Registration Fee

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