

The Sufficiency Of God's Word

Introduction. The rich man wanted Lazarus to go back to warn his family of the torment that awaited them. However, Abraham said to him, "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead" (Luke 16:31). This statement implies the concept that we want to study in our lesson.

"Sufficient" means that something is adequate to do its intended purpose. The adequacy of the word used to never be doubted. However, people now believe that the Bible needs help to appeal to man. But majority reaction and prosperity are not measures of truthfulness. The writers of the New Testament would not have understood preachers who, given the privilege of preaching the gospel, choose instead to entertain people, tell anecdotes, or give speeches on self-esteem. We will see why God's word is perfectly sufficient and how people try to supplement it.

I. ***God's Word Is Sufficient ...***

- A. To draw men to Christ (Psalm 43:3; Isaiah 2:3; John 6:44-45; 2 Thessalonians 2:14).
- B. To convert the sinner (John 5:25; Romans 1:16; 1 Thessalonians 2:13).
- C. To edify the saved (Matthew 7:24; Acts 20:32; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Peter 2:2).

II. ***Why Does It Not Draw More People?***

- A. Because some will not receive it (Matthew 13:1-23).
 1. They are not spiritually minded (John 6:60-66; Romans 8:5-7; 1 Corinthians 2:14).
 2. They do not love the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:10-11; 2 Timothy 3:7).
 3. They are not willing to do His will (John 7:17).
 4. They will not abide in His word (John 8:31-32).
- B. God's word accomplishes exactly what He intends (Matthew 11:25-26).

III. ***What Some People Want***

- A. Some want sensationalism.
 1. Miracles.
 - a) The rich man (Luke 16:30).
 - b) The Jews (Matthew 12:38-42; 1 Corinthians 1:22).
 - c) The charismatic (Mark 16:20; 1 Corinthians 13:8-12).
 2. Gimmicks.
 - a) Dynamic speakers (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).

- b) Change in worship (Acts 2:42-47).
 - c) Food and entertainment (1 Corinthians 10:7).
- B. Some want a social gospel.
1. Richard T. Ely, an advocate of the Social Gospel Movement in the early 1900s, wrote, "Christianity is primarily concerned with this world ..." It attempts to cure "social" ills (i.e., poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, juvenile delinquency), not spiritual ills.
 2. As a result, it is physical in its nature and purpose (Matthew 13:22; 1 Corinthians 2:10-15). It concerns itself with the "whole man" (Matthew 10:28), and it focuses on "what can God do for me" (Luke 17:7-10).

Conclusion. Although talking about repentance, the familiar Isaiah 55:8-9 declares that God's ways are not our ways. Vss. 10-11 say that God's word will produce its desired effect, and we must have faith in the power of God.

When you look at websites, you get depressed, thinking that there is no way to meet the excitement and complexity of what is offered at other places. However, it is, in a way, insulting that people are convinced that they must be converted to Christ through the "back door" of sensationalism or the social gospel. You are not a lemming -- you have the capability to see the glorious gospel for what it is -- a soul, saving message from our gracious God.