

The Bible is **inspired**, **inerrant**, and **sufficient** for everything we need.  
Lesson for Sunday, May 19, 2019

INTRODUCTION:

- Doctrine is critical for the local church and the people of God.
  - Group brainstorm: ASK: What do you think is the most important doctrine of the Christian faith?
  - LISTEN: *Allow the class a few minutes to share their thoughts. You simply listen and follow-up with "Why do you say that doctrine?"*
- State: What we believe about the Bible is the most important doctrine.
  - ASK: How many agree? (*Raise their hands.*) Disagree?
  - Why would I make that statement? Everything we believe is presented for us in the pages of Scripture. If anyone can prove that the Bible is unreliable, then every other important doctrine falls.
  - If the Bible can't be trusted then what can we trust?
- What we believe about the Bible is critical, and here is today's big idea:
  - The Bible is inspired, inerrant, and sufficient for everything we need. (*This should be written on the board for you to refer to often as you teach.*)

BIBLE STUDY: *Ask the class to turn to 2 Timothy 3 and read together verses 16-17.*

- *After you read it together, encourage them to take a moment and underline that in their Bible if it is not already.*
1. God's Word is **INSPIRED**.
    - a. *Emphasize the first phrase, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God."* The Bible clearly claims to be an inspired Book.
    - b. The literal meaning of this phrase is "**God-breathed**." This word refutes any idea of human inspiration and clearly claims that the Author of the Scripture is God Himself.
    - c. Point out that Paul also clearly pointed out that this applies "all Scripture." This includes more than the thoughts, but the actual writings, the words written down.
    - d. The very words on the pages of your Bible are inspired by God Himself!
    - e. This is why we preach and teach from a literal (word for word) Bible translation.
  2. God's Word is **INERRANT**.
    - a. Begin with this logic: So the Bible clearly claims that God is its Author. What do we know about God and His character? *Let some answer...*
      - i. God is holy, perfect, righteous, etc.
      - ii. So logic tells us that if God is the Author, and God is perfect, then what He has written will be perfect.
      - iii. Any book is a reflection of its author; and so it is with God's Book!
    - b. But there are a number of verses that make this claim. Have volunteers read the following verses: Psalm 12:6, Psalm 19:7, Proverbs 30:5.
    - c. These claims of purity and perfection are absolute statements. They don't read that the Bible is "mostly true" or "nearly perfect."
    - d. The Bible argues for complete perfection, leaving no room for "partial perfection" theories.

3. God's Word is **SUFFICIENT**.
- a. Read 2 Timothy 3:17 emphasizing, *“thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”*
  - b. Let's define some words that Paul uses:
  - c. *“Thoroughly furnished”* is one word in the Greek that means *“completely equipped.”* Paul is stating that we need nothing more than God's Word for our complete life.
    - i. ILL: What is the difference between an unfurnished apartment and a fully furnished apartment?
    - ii. Unfurnished: You have to provide the funds and effort to furnish.
    - iii. Furnished: Once you open the door you find everything you need.
  - d. Then there is the simple, but critical word, *“all.”* ASK: What does *“all”* mean?  
*Trick question – it means ALL!*
  - e. The problem is not in understanding what *“all”* means, but in applying that in our lives.
    - i. STATE: *I'm going to read a list of common problems we encounter in life. As I read each one I want you to answer this question: Is God's Word enough for solving that problem?*
    - ii. Broken arm (go to the ER); alcohol abuse; finances; diabetes (Dr.); marriage and/or parenting; addiction (see RU – the Bible is enough!); fear; anxiety; depression.
  - f. We believe what the Word of God says – it is sufficient and will equip us for every issue we face (with God, others, and ourselves).

CONCLUSION: *Read this slowly and maybe more than once...*

In these verses, Paul draws the hypothetical *“line in the sand.”* It is inconsistent to claim that the Bible is without errors, but it does not provide enough guidance to handle the really serious problems of life. The Bible clearly claims to be sufficient. It would be in error if it were not! Therefore, if you believe that the Bible is inerrant, you must conclude that it is also sufficient for whatever problems you are facing in your life.

DISCUSSION:

- How should the fact that the very words on the pages of your Bible are inspired by God impact our attitude toward our Bible?
- What would you say to someone who makes the claim that the Bible is full of errors?
  - First, always ask the critic to take your Bible and show you what he is referring to. Most cannot.
  - Second, ask them if they have ever read the entire Bible. How can you criticize what you haven't thoroughly investigated?
  - When you are confused by what appears to be an error, have you considered that the problem is in your reading and understanding, not in the fact that the Bible must have an error?
- How would you know where to go in the Bible for specific issues you might be facing?
- If we really believe what these verses teach, how should it influence the advice and counsel we give to others?
- What problem are you facing that you need to investigate God's Word for His solution?