



Summer Selection Series
The All-Sufficient Word
From Sermon 7.20.25

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Overview from Sunday's sermon: One of the great ministry and preaching shifts New Heights has ever implemented was leaving seeker-driven/purpose driven philosophy and embracing Reformed Theology with fully expository, verse-by-verse preaching. The catalyst for those changes was understanding and adopting a faith view of the sufficiency of Scripture. God's Word is all we need for church life, preaching, outreach, and equipping believers for holy living. We are just to deliver the Word and get out of the way.

1. Key Scripture Doctrines—Their Titles and Meanings

- Inspired: From our key text, this is God-breathed. Its origins are not in man, but fully divine. Humans were the recording agents, but it's God the Holy Spirit who determined every word.
- Inerrant: In its original text, the Bible is without error. This includes infallibility = faithful to deliver
- Plenary: Full inspired, not just parts. And the Bible is complete. No new words from God.
- Perspicuity: Although some portions are challenging, the Bible is crystal clear in its message.
- Sufficient: With all these traits listed above, the Bible appropriately stands alone. We don't need to help it, supplement it, modernize it, avoid any part of it. It will accomplish all God wills.

2. Is any one of those doctrines more important than any other? Yes and no. it must begin with Scriptures' inerrancy. They all connect. Each leads to another truth. After inerrancy, we'd have to go with scriptures' full inspiration. Many churches believe (or at least publish their belief) the first 4, but then all their practices show they don't believe in its sufficiency.

3. What are some of the reasons Scripture came to be viewed as insufficient? Various answers and reasons. Include: from the Civil War to post WWII, the church was losing influence in modern culture. Denominations and ministries sought new ways to connect with society and the sciences. (Also include the "if only" philosophy. If only we made church more inviting, more people would come to Christ).

3a. Human solutions to their view of scripture being insufficient: Marketing, surveys, gimmicks, drop doctrine, pragmatism, emotional persuasion.

3b. The new gauges of their success (therefore, the false assumption of God's blessing) = Numbers, dollars, influence.

4. Read each passage. What claim does the Bible make in each about itself?

Isaiah 55:10-11: God's Word fully and accurately preached will accomplish His will = power

Psalms 119:9 & 11: Scripture is the driving force in holy living and growth

John 17:17: God's Word alone is truth. We are made holy through learning and practicing it.

1 Thessalonians 1:5: The Bible is not black ink on white paper. It's alive and powerful.

Romans 1:16: It is only through an accurate Gospel that anyone gets saved.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5: The Bible is never the power or ability of man, but the effective truth forever.

5. If a church just preached the Word of God on Sunday, in its entirety, would that be that all God requires? Yes and No. It's all we need to preach, but we must practice it, live it, and share it outside the church. We also have to have love: forgiveness, acceptance, grace, patience, unity, and teachability. = be Church.