

The Authority and Sufficiency of the Word of God and its Relationship to Miracles, Personal Testimony and Tradition

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I. **Introduction:** When we say the scriptures have authority we are basing that on a number of factors. First: By authority we mean that the scriptures have a "legal or rightful power; a right to command or act" in areas pertaining to our faith, doctrine and practice. The scriptures are authoritative because it was God that inspired and preserves them, and therefore it is God himself that speaks to us through his written word. This is Gods revelation of himself through his blessed Son to us.

II. The Scriptures are authoritative because they are infallible.

A. By infallible we mean "not fallible, not liable to err, indisputable, certain". How could the scriptures be authoritative in our lives if you didn't know if what it said or revealed was true or really required? It's impossible to have an authoritative scripture full of errors.

John 10:35 "The scripture cannot be broken". The word broken means to loosen. It is used in John 7:23 of the Law of Moses being broken should circumcision not be carried out. The scripture cannot be broken because it is not the words of mere men but of God.

Psalms 119:89 "For ever, O Lord thy word is settled in heaven". This verse first of all shows, that it's the Lords word and not the words of his creature and secondly the immutability of the scriptures as a result of their eternal conception in the mind and purpose of God. It's as perfect and without change as God is.

Isa. 40:8 "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever". The scriptures cannot be broken because they are immutable and perfect in the whole and in the part.

Isa. 55:11 "word shall not return void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it".

1. The Lord has a purpose in the word that he sends.
2. The Lord fully intends to carry out that word because He's
 - Faithful - He cannot deny that which he has written.
 - Sovereign - He gets what He wants.
 - Powerful - He has the power to make it happen.

Isa. 59:21- Gods word is eternal.

III. **The Scriptures are authoritative because they are sufficient in matters of faith, doctrine and practice.** The word sufficient means "equal to the end proposed, adequate, competent, and qualified". The scriptures **are not** supplemented by human tradition.

II Tim.3:16,17 "All scripture is inspired by God and is profitable"

Isa. 8:20 "to the law and the testimony".

John 5:38-40 "Ye search the scriptures because in them"

The scriptures reveal first the centrality of Jesus Christ and secondly the absolute impossibility of anyone obtaining life apart from him. The scriptures are not to be worshipped; revered yes because of who wrote them but worshipped no. The scriptures in and of themselves have no life giving power.

Luke 16:29-31 "they have Moses and the prophets". The scriptures are more sufficient than the personal testimony of one raised from the dead.

II Peter 1:18-21 "sure word of testimony"

Matt. 22:29 "they do err not knowing the scriptures".

A. Because the scriptures are authoritative and sufficient they must be fulfilled.

Matt. 5:18 "till all be accomplished"

Luke 16:17 "than for one title of the law to pass away".

Matt.26:54,56 "the scriptures be fulfilled and thus it must be".

Luke 24:26-28 "Ought not Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into his glory".

Luke 24:44-45 "that all things must be fulfilled".

Scripture cannot be broken because it must be fulfilled.

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IV. Three things Satan uses to make void the word of God.

A. **Signs, wonders and supernatural deeds.** These supernatural manifestations are an indication of the near presence of God. (Related to God's power in nature) They are not the highest evidence of truth or demonstration of truth since the teaching that is being established by the sign must be consistent with the scriptures revealed up to that point. Since they are not the highest evidence of truth and men are by nature sense and sight oriented Satan uses them to turn men from the truth in Gods word.

Deut. 13:1-8 cf. Deut. 18:15-22

Ex. 4:1-9 Cf. Gen. 15:12-16 and Acts 7:6

John 5:36 "for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.

John 10:25,38

Acts 2:22 "a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did in the mist of you".

Heb. 2:4 "God also bearing them witness with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles..."

I John 4:1-3 Test the spirits (test by truth) to tell origin.

Luke 24:25 "O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken". (walking by sight. take your eyes off yourself)

John 20:29 "blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

B. **Personal testimony** of whatever nature although used in scripture is always subordinate and conditioned by the scriptures.

I Peter 1:18-21 Scriptures are a more sure "word of prophesy" than Peter's eye witness account.

Luke 16:29-31 "they have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them....If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead". I believe that this is the whole point of the passage. Christ was the one that rose from the dead and if the Pharisees (v.14) believed not Moses and the prophets they will not believe Christ.

1. Personal testimony has a place in our witness, but the scriptures have the preeminence in authority and sufficiency. This is evidenced by Peter's address in Acts 2.

Acts 2:15-17; 25-29; 29-31; 34. Note the ref. to O.T. scriptures.

2. The only reference to Peter's witness of these things is Acts 2:32.

C. **Tradition** is always view in scripture in a bad sense and never in a good sense. As with supernatural manifestations and personal testimony the only test for tradition is its consistency with the word of God. Of all the 2,000 Greek nouns in the N.T. only two words equal the numerical value of 666 - wealth (euporia) I Kings 10:14 and tradition (paradosis) Acts 19:25; Matt.15:2. (see Babylon Mystery Religion by Woodrow pg. 104)

1. It's a tradition **of men.**

Matt. 15:2 "Ye make void the word of God by your tradition".

Mark 7:3-13 "Ye leave the commandments of God and hold fast to the tradition of men".

Col. 2:8 "tradition of men".

2. It's a tradition **taught by fathers.**

Gal. 1:14 "tradition of my fathers".

I Peter 1:18 "by tradition from your fathers". cf. Eph 4:17

Jer. 9:14 "But have walked after the imagination of their own heart, and after Baalim which their fathers taught them":

3. It's referred to as **commandments** and **doctrine** of men.

Col. 2:22 "after the commandments and doctrine of men".

Isa. 29:13 "their fear is taught by the precept of men".

Titus 1:14 "Jewish fables and commandments of men".

Matt. 15:9 "teaching as the doctrines and commandments of men".

4. Its referred to as the **leaven** of the **Pharisees** and **Sadducees.**

Matt. 16:6,12 "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees".

Mark 8:15

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- Luke 12:1** "leaven which is hypocrisy".
5. Early believers relied on scripture not on tradition.
Acts 2:16-21,25-58,34-36
Acts 15
Acts 17:11
Acts 18:28
Acts 26:2
6. Tradition is nothing less than a adding to scripture. There are specific commands in scripture not to add to scripture.
Deut. 4:2
Rev. 22:18, 19
7. Satan himself although he uses tradition to blind and deceive men's minds, relied on scripture and not personal testimony and tradition in the temptation of our Lord.
Matt. 4:4-10 Satan knew the worthlessness of tradition.
- D. Only those that hear and do the word of God are blessed by God.
Luke 6:47-50
James 1:25
John 13:17
Luke 8:20; 11:27,28