



Discipleship Must be Based *Solely* on the Bible

Most believers in Christ would agree, at least in theory, that Christ-honoring discipleship is based *solely* on the Bible. In practice, however, it is another matter. Surprisingly, true believers who trust the Bible completely regarding eternal salvation do not always trust the Bible's sufficiency to deal with challenges of everyday life. Yet, if the Bible is not adequate or applicable to address all of life's situations, where are answers to be found? The only alternative is worldly wisdom, which is folly with God (1 Corinthians 3:19-20).

1 Corinthians 3:19-20 (NIV), For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness,"²⁰ and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile."

THE BATTLE BETWEEN TRUTH AND ERROR

Some believers try to legitimize using worldly wisdom (especially psychotherapy and humanistic psychology) because the Bible is supposedly not comprehensive enough to address all aspects of life and relationships. Those denying the Bible's sufficiency believe that the Bible deals effectively with "spiritual matters" but lacks insight to help people face and deal with "real life issues." Yet another worldly perspective believes that we have made such progress in understanding human behavior over the last century that the Bible is no longer relevant to deal with life's problems. (See [Counseling Must be Based Solely on the Bible](#))

When any aspect of worldly wisdom is used in place of or equal to God's Word, one must assume that this extra "authority" produces a better outcome than using only the Bible.

Any excuses or assumptions used to augment God's Word with worldly wisdom are without merit. Scripture is completely sufficient to deal with every aspect of life and relationships apart from worldly wisdom.

There are numerous examples of Satan's power to blind people so that they accept a lie as truth. A prime example of such blinding delusion is the belief that worldly wisdom is necessary to deal with life's challenges instead of relying solely on the all-powerful and all-sufficient Word of God.

Before considering any other supposed authority outside of the Bible, take time to review the many characteristics of God's Word that demonstrate its power and sufficiency to deal with all matters of life and conduct.

SCRIPTURE IS YOUR AUTHORITY ¹

GOD'S WORD IS:

A. Permanent and eternal

1. It will all be fulfilled
2. Heaven and earth shall pass away but God's Word will not pass away
3. It will abide forever
4. It is everlasting and forever

Isaiah 40:8

Matthew 5:18

Matthew 24:35

1 Peter 1:25

Psalms 119:89, 160

B. Inspired by God for our training and equipping

1. Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit
2. God's Word provides a new pattern of living
 - a. It teaches you (*commands and guidelines*)
 - b. It reproves you (*identification of error*)
 - c. It corrects you (*change/repentance*)
 - d. It trains you in righteousness (*growth and stability through practice*)

2 Timothy 3:16-17

2 Peter 1:21

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Psalms 25:4-5; 94:12

Hebrews 4:12

Psalms 25:8-9; 119:9

Hebrews 5:13-14

- e. It will make you adequate
(ready and able to do God's work), and
- f. It will equip you for every good work
(used by God in this world)

1 Peter 1:22-23;
2 Peter 1:3-4
1 Thessalonians 2:13

C. Truth

- 1. All of God's Word is truth
- 2. The gospel of salvation is truth
- 3. You are brought forth by the Word of truth
- 4. You are to handle accurately the Word of truth

John 17:17
Psalm 119:151, 160
Ephesians 1:13
James 1:18
2 Timothy 2:15

D. A powerful, spiritual force

- 1. It is living, active, and sharper than any two-edged sword
- 2. It is a weapon against spiritual forces of wickedness
- 3. It is to be used to resist Satan's wiles
- 4. It makes you wiser than your enemies
- 5. It can make you tremble

Jeremiah 23:29
Hebrews 4:12

Ephesians 6:11-17
Matthew 4:4-10; Ephesians 6:11, 17
Psalm 119:98
Ezra 10:3; Isaiah 66:2, 5

E. Cleansing to your ways

- 1. You are cleansed through God's Word
- 2. You are sanctified by the truth of God's Word
- 3. You are purified by obeying the truth

Psalm 119:9
John 15:3; Ephesians 5:26
John 17:17
1 Peter 1:22

F. A source of grace that builds you up

- 1. It strengthens in grief
- 2. It sustains you
- 3. It comforts in affliction
- 4. It is a comfort and consolation
- 5. It gives hope
- 6. It provides peace
- 7. It produces a reverence for God
- 8. It gives freedom

Acts 20:32
Psalm 119:28
Psalm 119:116
Psalm 119:50, 92
Psalm 119:52
Psalm 119:49; Romans 15:4
Psalm 119:165
Psalm 119:38
Psalm 119:45; John 8:32

G. A testimony to its own sufficiency

- 1. It is a reproach to those who do not listen
- 2. You must not add to it or subtract from it
- 3. You are in peril if you take anything away from or add anything to God's Word
- 4. You are accursed if you preach a different gospel
- 5. Distortion of Scripture brings about destruction
- 6. It contains examples for our instruction
- 7. It is foolishness to those who are perishing
- 8. It is not to be used deceitfully nor taken lightly
- 9. It is pure and refined
- 10. It has been tested
- 11. It is perfect
- 12. It is fully confirmed

2 Peter 1:3-4
Jeremiah 6:10
Deuteronomy 4:2
Proverbs 30:6; Revelation 22:19

Galatians 1:8, 9
2 Peter 3:16
Romans 15:4, 1 Corinthians 10:6, 11
1 Corinthians 1:18
2 Corinthians 2:17, 4:2
Psalm 12:6, 19:8
2 Samuel 22:31; Psalm 18:30; Proverbs 30:5
Psalm 19:7
Psalm 93:5

H. Always effective in accomplishing God's purpose

- 1. The Scriptures bear witness of Jesus Christ
- 2. It is used to bring a person to faith in Jesus Christ
- 3. It performs its work in you who believe

Isaiah 55:11
John 5:39
Romans 10:17
1 Thessalonians 2:13

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| <p>I. The standard for judgment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Your acceptance of God's Word determines your eternal destiny 2. It judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart <p>J. To dwell within you</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It helps to keep you from sinning 2. It helps you meditate biblically <p>K. To be obeyed, not just heard</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You should be a doer, not just a hearer 2. You are blessed when you observe God's Word 3. You have greater spiritual discernment through obedience to God's Word <p>L. Food—man lives not only by bread but by God's Word</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God's Word is more treasured than necessary food 2. God's Word is sweeter than honey 3. You grow on the milk of God's Word 4. God's children are delighted when they partake of His words 5. His servants are nourished by words of faith <p>M. A light to guide your way</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It gives light and understanding 2. It is able to keep you from stumbling 3. It is a light shining in a dark place 4. It provides the light of instruction | <p>John 12:48
<i>John 5:24, 38; 8:47, 51</i></p> <p><i>Hebrews 4:12</i></p> <p>Colossians 3:16
<i>Psalm 37:31, 119:11</i>
<i>Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2; 119:15, 23, 48</i></p> <p>Matthew 7:24-27
<i>James 1:22-24</i>
<i>Luke 11:28; John 13:17; James 1:25</i>
<i>Hebrews 5:14</i></p> <p>Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4
<i>Job 23:12</i>
<i>Psalm 19:10</i>
<i>1 Peter 2:2</i>
<i>Jeremiah 15:16</i></p> <p><i>1 Timothy 4:6</i></p> <p>Psalm 119:105
<i>Psalm 19:7; 119:99, 104, 130</i>
<i>Psalm 119:9, 165</i>
<i>2 Peter 1:19</i>
<i>Proverbs 6:23</i></p> |
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THE BOTTOM LINE

Hopefully, you recognize that God's Word is changeless and is as powerful and applicable to every person and circumstance today as it was to those living thousands of years ago. When you recognize the timeless sufficiency and power of biblical truth, it becomes clear that mixing God's Word with any supposed "truth" outside of Scripture cannot improve the effectiveness of God's Word. Worldly wisdom that is integrated with God's Word does not reveal or release the powerful truth resident in Scripture. Instead, it dilutes it—much like the way that water dilutes the effectiveness of gasoline. Rather than searching elsewhere for help to deal with any aspect of life and relationships, remember 2 Timothy 2:15, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."

1. **Scripture is Your Authority** is from *Self-Confrontation, A Manual for In-Depth Biblical Discipleship*, 19th printing, pages 50-52, published by the Biblical Counseling Foundation, 42550 Aegean St., Indio, CA 92203 USA – Phone: 760.347.4608 and email address – admin@bcfministries.org – website: <http://www.bcfministries.org/>