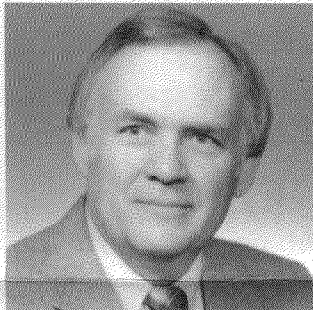


# The Sufficiency Of Scripture

by Mr. Jim Craddock, Founder and Director of  
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*Jim Craddock*

A man that I have known for some time came to my office. The fact that he "dropped in" revealed the urgency of his mission. His eyes betrayed the hurt and fear he attempted to conceal. After a time he revealed the purpose of his visit--his daughter had tried to take her life.

After he shared with me the circumstances leading up to the attempted suicide, he asked me a very honest question, one that he had been struggling with ever since his daughter's action had become known. "Should I," he said, "take her to 'professional counseling,' or do you feel that as a biblical counselor you could handle the situation?"

First, I assured him that his daughter's welfare was the first and primary consideration. Second, I told him that I felt quite comfortable in dealing with the situation. His reply was quite interesting, "I feel much better," he said, "having her in a place of real Christian concern and commitment rather than a secular situation."

This little interplay underscores two things which have caught my attention of late. One positive, the other negative.

First, I find that I have an ever growing awareness and appreciation for the wealth of knowledge and the depth of insight the Bible has into man and his behavior. It simply astounds me.

The second is that I am becoming aware of the profound credibility gap

that exists in most Christians between what they profess and what they practice. On the one hand they profess Christ and His adequacy, but on the other they don't really believe that God can deal with their spiritual and emotional problems. It seems that something more is needed.

Over the years all of us at Scope Ministries have had to trust the Word of God, not only in our own personal lives, but in the lives of the thousands that have sought our help. The Bible has never failed us, nor has it ever fallen short in addressing the problems that people have faced.

In short, I have come to the conviction that the Bible is sufficient to answer and address every need and

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problem the Christian faces. I sincerely believe that Christ through His Word is adequate to meet our needs today. We need neither to add to it nor take away from it.

Recently, I was asked to conduct a workshop at the Congress on the Bible II held in Washington, D.C. I chose as my topic, "The Sufficiency of Scriptures." Although it was well received by many, I didn't realize that "sufficiency" is not really a popular topic among many of our evangelical leaders.

I found many giving lip service to it, but ignoring it in practice. I have seen Christian leaders stand for inerrancy and stumble over sufficiency. They say the right words and do the wrong things.

It is here that the credibility gap is most noticeable between what is professed and what is practiced. Instead of standing in awe of God's Word, the church seems to have been seduced by the enticing aroma of

psychology. Instead of Christ only, it is Christ and..., the Bible and...

The problem that we face today, and one that is very real, is whether God's Word is sufficient or deficient. If it is sufficient, then it will stand alone. It will need nothing else. However, if we decide that it is deficient, we will be forced to add something to it. We will have to "integrate" it, as it were, to make it complete.

For those who hold the Bible to be deficient, and thus want to integrate it with psychology, another question needs to be posed. Is it possible to integrate psychology with the Scripture?

Fortunately, it is not! The Bible does not give us this freedom. And whenever the attempt is made, the Bible isn't strengthened, but weakened. Christianity isn't purified, it is prostituted. You don't end up with a Christian psychology, you end up with a new Christianity!

What is the answer then? To return to the Word, to come back to our first love. We must make a choice, either the Bible is sufficient or it is deficient, one or the other. Scope Ministries has chosen to believe the Bible and its sufficiency. How about you?

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