

THE DOCTRINE OF SCRIPTURE: PART 1

The centerpiece of Reformed theology, recovered at the reformation, is not election, predestination, or even justification by faith, rather it is the doctrine of Scripture.

_____ is God making himself and his purposes known.

NATURAL REVELATION

Natural revelation is God's revelation of himself to all men mediated through the _____ order.

Romans 1:20 says, *"For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made."*

What we *Can* Know about God through Natural Revelation

In _____—**God's Existence, Glory, Power, Wisdom, Goodness**

Romans 1:19–20 says, *"For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."*

Psalms 19:1–4 says, *"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world."*

Acts 17:17 says, *"Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness"*

In _____—**God's Moral Law and Judgment**

Genesis 1:27 says, *"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."*

Romans 2:14–15 says, *"For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them"*

Romans 1:32 says, *"Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them."*

What we *Cannot* Know about God through Natural Revelation

We cannot know the love of God, the character of sin, or the nature of man, the person and work of Jesus Christ, the need for faith and repentance, the promise of forgiveness and so on.

SPECIAL REVELATION

Special revelation is the knowledge of God given in concrete form to a specific _____.

Hebrews 1:1 says, "Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son."

THE NECESSITY OF SCRIPTURE

WCF and **LBCF** says, "Although the light of nature and the works of creation and providence manifest the goodness, wisdom, and power of God so much that man is left without any excuse, they are not sufficient to provide that knowledge of God and His will which is necessary for salvation."

1) Necessary for _____ God's Will

If we are to know God's law, his commandments, his will and his purposes, we must attain it through the _____ of _____. (Psalm 1:1–2, Deut 29:29)

2) Necessary for Maintaining _____

Matthew 4:4 says, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (quoting **Deut 8:3**).

1 Peter 2:2 says, "Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation."

John 17:17 says, "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."

3) Necessary for _____

Scripture, because it is authored by the eternal, all-knowing God who never lies, and who has certain and infallible knowledge, has spoken to us in the Bible. Therefore, it is appropriate for us to be more certain about the truths we read in Scripture than about any other knowledge we have.

4) Necessary for Knowing the _____

2 Timothy 3:15 says, "from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."

Romans 10:13–17 says, "For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

John 14:6 says, "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Acts 4:12 says of Jesus, "*there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*"

1 Timothy 2:4 says, "*For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*" Christ is the only Savior so the word that tells us of Christ is absolutely necessary.

1 Corinthians 2:6–13 says, "*Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"—¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.*"

CONCLUSION

The Necessity of Scripture is that the Scriptures are necessary for knowing God, knowing the person and work of Jesus Christ, knowing the will of God, maintaining spiritual life and knowing the way of salvation.

John 6:68 says, "*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*"

RECOMMENDED READING

From introductory, to intermediate, to advanced, these resources will nourish your soul and cause you to praise God for his word.

Kevin DeYoung, *Taking God at His Word*

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine or Systematic Theology*

John Frame, *The Doctrine of the Word of God*