

Biblical Methodology

**Why the Sufficiency of
Scripture Still Matters**

Biblical Methodology

- Introduction
- Three Recent Case Studies
- The Need for a Full Application
- Two Examples
- A Suggested Model
- Conclusion

Introduction

- **Total Contradiction between Christianity and Unbelief**
 - Colossians 2:1-9
 - Genesis 1-3 and Hebrews 1:1-3
 - Romans 1:18-23
 - Psalm 19:1-6
- **Relevance to Sufficiency**
 - Scripture is the only game in town.
 - Examples

Colossians 2:1-10

For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding,

Colossians 2:1-10

to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, **in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.** Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words.

Colossians 2:1-10

For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

6 As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

Colossians 2:1-10

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to **the tradition of men**, according to **the basic principles of the world**, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him...

Genesis 3:6

So when the woman saw that

- the tree *was* good for food,
- that it *was* pleasant to the eyes,
- and a tree desirable to make *one* wise,

she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

Hebrews 1:1-3

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

Hebrews 1:1-3

who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, **and upholding all things by the word of His power,** when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...

Romans 1:20-21

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Psalm 19:1-4

**The heavens declare the glory of
God;**

**And the firmament shows His
handiwork.**

**Day unto day utters speech,
And night unto night reveals
knowledge.**

Psalm 19:1-4

**There is no speech nor language ;
Their voice is not heard.**

**But their line has gone out through
all the earth,**

**And their words to the end of the
world.**

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Three Case Studies

- **Jay Adams and Nouthetic Counseling**
- **Cornelius Van Til and Presuppositional Apologetics**
- **Henry Morris and Scientific Creationism**

The Need for a Full Application

- **The Standard Treatment**
 - The CTS Sufficiency Statement
 - Standard Support Passages
 - Ambiguity in the Standard Statement
 - Common Application
- **Taking the Next Step**
 - IFS and the Apostle Paul
 - A Sacred/Secular Split?

“We believe in the complete adequacy of Scripture, for in it God has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness....

...We hold, therefore, that the Word of God by itself is sufficient to prepare a person for a lifetime of effective ministry.”

-CTS Catalog

Two Possible Interpretations

- God's revelation in Scripture is the sole sufficient foundation upon which to build the Christian's life of ministry
- God's revelation in Scripture is all anyone ever needs in their head to prepare for and successfully execute the Christian's life of ministry

The Need for a Full Application

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Two Examples

- **Pastoral Training**
 - **Biblical Ecclesiology**
 - **Incapable Churches**
 - **A Practical Remedy**
- **Physical Culture**
 - **The God-Created Body**
 - **Reclaiming Lost Ground**
 - **Building from Scratch**
 - **Why Do Both?**

Pastoral Training

- **Biblical Ecclesiology**
 - Mt. 28:18-20, Eph.4:11-16, 2 Tim. 2:2
 - Paul's Teamwork
 - John Mark's Career
 - Timothy's Training
 - Inter-Church Relationships

Pastoral Training

- **A Practical Remedy**
 - **Five-Tier Curriculum**
 - **Ability to Customize**
 - **One-Room-Schoolhouse Teaching**
 - **Inter-Church Cooperation**

Physical Culture

- **The God-Created Body**
- **Reclaiming Lost Ground**
- **Building from Scratch**
- **Why Do Both?**

Reclaiming Lost Ground: Yoga

- 1. No Christian should participate in Hinduism.
- 2. Yoga is a part of Hinduism
- 3. Therefore, Christians should not participate in yoga.

Reclaiming Lost Ground: Yoga

- 1. No Christian should participate in Hinduism.
- 4. The physical exercise of yoga can be separated from the traditionally underlying Hindu philosophy/religion.
- 5. Therefore, identification with Hinduism does not, in itself, pose a barrier to Christian participation in the physical exercise of yoga.

Reclaiming Lost Ground: Yoga

- 1. No Christian should participate in Hinduism.
- 6. The physical exercise of yoga cannot be separated from the traditionally underlying Hindu philosophy/religion.
- 7. Therefore, no Christian should participate in the physical exercise of yoga.

Reclaiming Lost Ground: Yoga

- 1. No Christian should participate in Hinduism.
- 6. The physical exercise of yoga cannot be separated from the traditionally underlying Hindu philosophy/religion.
- 7. Therefore, no Christian should participate in the physical exercise of yoga.

How Can We Know?

- 4. The physical exercise of yoga can be separated from the traditionally underlying Hindu philosophy/religion.
- 6. The physical exercise of yoga cannot be separated from the traditionally underlying Hindu philosophy/religion.

Physical Culture

- The God-Created Body
- Reclaiming Lost Ground
- **Building from Scratch**
- Why Do Both?

A Suggested Model

- **Begin with the Creator's History of the World**
- **Seek the Whole Counsel of God**
- **Investigate and Interpret God's World**
 - Engage the World Ourselves
 - Challenge Pagan Traditions & Categories
- **Minister the Truth**
 - Strengthen Fellow Christians
 - Expose Pagan Futility

Physical Culture

- The God-Created Body
- Reclaiming Lost Ground
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Conclusion

- **Summary**
- **Other Areas to Consider**
- **Concluding Challenge**

**God's revelation is the only
sufficient foundation for life,
ministry, or anything at all.**

**The task of the Christian life
is to grow in our application
of this truth.**

“The certainty of Christianity is that it’s the only rock on which any house can be built, even the house of intellect, philosophy, or life....”

**“...And fools try to build
elsewhere. And when they
do, the rains come and
destroy it.”**

-Dr. Greg L. Bahnsen

Other Areas to Consider

- **The Christian Life**
- **Preaching: Traditional vs. Biblical**
- **Evangelism: Consciously Biblical Patterns vs. Everything Else**
 - **Chronological Approach**
 - **Gospel of John Approach**
- **Pastoral Calling: Professional vs. Shepherd**

What are you good at?

Ground it in God's Word.

Share it with Christians.

Share it with pagans, too.