

## The Word of God

**III. The Four Characteristics of God's Word: The Necessity of Scripture** – The Bible is necessary for knowing the gospel, for maintaining spiritual life, and for knowing God's will, but is not necessary for knowing that God exists or for knowing something about God's character and moral laws.

a. *The Bible is Necessary for Knowledge of the Gospel*

1. Read Romans 10:13-17. The gospel message is necessary for salvation.
2. Salvation ONLY comes by Jesus Christ and knowledge of Him ONLY comes by God's word. Whether we read it or are told about what was written, Salvation ONLY comes through the word of God.
3. Those in the Old Testament were saved because they believed in the words of God's promise.

b. *The Bible Is Necessary for Maintaining Spiritual Life*

1. Matthew 4:4; Deut. 32:47; 1 Peter 2:2
2. To neglect regular reading of God's Word is as detrimental to the health of our souls as the neglect of physical food is detrimental to the health of our bodies.

c. *The Bible Is Necessary for Certain Knowledge of God's Will*

1. Sin distorts our perception of right and wrong, brings faulty reasoning into our thinking processes, and causes us to suppress from time to time the testimony of our consciences – Jer. 17:9; Rom. 2:14-15; 1 Cor. 8:10; Heb. 5:14; 10:22; 1 Tim. 4:2; Titus 1:15.
2. The Bible contains clear and definite revelation of God's will.
3. God has not revealed ALL things to us, but he has revealed enough for us to know his will (Deut. 29:29).

d. *The Bible is NOT Necessary for Knowledge That God Exists*

1. Creation declares God's existence and tells something of his character (Psalms 19:1; Acts 14:16-17; Rom. 1:19-21).
2. Man is guilty not because they did not know about God but because, even though God's existence is evident, they reject God (Rom. 1:18). Therefore leaving man without excuse (Rom. 1:20).

e. *The Bible Is NOT Necessary for Knowing Something of God's Character and Moral Laws*

1. Paul says that even Gentiles have God's moral law written on their hearts (Rom. 2:14-15).

f. *Conclusion*

1. Even though God's existence and something of his character is revealed in creation and his moral law is written on the human heart, specific knowledge about salvation, sanctification, and discernment of his specific will requires the special revelation found in Scripture alone.
2. Other sources of knowledge may be helpful (for example, the church's historical actions on doctrinal issues or commentary from church fathers) but these sources are not necessary for a certain knowledge of God's revelation concerning salvation, the Christian life, and his will.