

IS THE BIBLE ENOUGH ?

2 Timothy 3:15-17

Today we take the occasion of 498th anniversary (this coming Saturday) of the putative* beginning of the Protestant Reformation to focus on what was the bedrock of that movement, and also of the formation in 1936 of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. For many or most of us, this is a review and a call to remain faithful to Christ & His Word.

[*supposed, assumed by most people to be the case]

1. The authority of Scripture – the very word of God. 3:16

- Definitions: "Scripture" & "all Scripture" (i.e., the Bible)

Old Testament (3:15) and New Testament – 2 Peter 3:15,16

- Written by men – as God "breathed" it to them –

that is, as the Spirit of God directed them – 2 Peter 1:21.

- So the authority of Scripture rests on the God who inspired it.

The church received the Word, it did not create the Word.

- Therefore – receive it as true, obey it for God's authority in it.

- Different from every merely human book & all church declarations.

2. The sufficiency of Scripture. 3:15-16

- "Sufficient" for what?

Not for knowing how to do the ordinary things of this world.

Don't read the Bible to find a blueprint for a bridge.

- FIRST - Sufficient for a saving faith in Jesus the Christ – 3:15

- Sufficient for the teaching, rebuking, correcting, training in righteousness

that we need to become the people Christ redeemed us to be.

The "goal" of Scripture is the goal of our salvation: forgiven, godly servants of the living God in His Word bearing witness to Christ.

- A few qualifications & cautions