

CONFERENCE ON THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD OVER ALL THINGS

**8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
APRIL 26, 2013**

**BANTAYOG MEMORIAL CENTER
QUEZON AVENUE, DILIMAN
QUEZON CITY**

SPEECH TOPICS:

- The Sovereignty of God and the Creation of the Heaven and the Earth
- The Sovereignty of God and the Salvation of the Church
- The Sovereignty of God and the Divine Inspiration of the Scripture
- The Sovereignty of God and the Responsibility of Man

SPEAKERS:

REV. RICHARD SMIT **REV. DANIEL KLEYN**
Philippine PRCA Missionary *Philippine PRCA Missionary*

MODERATOR/EMCEE:

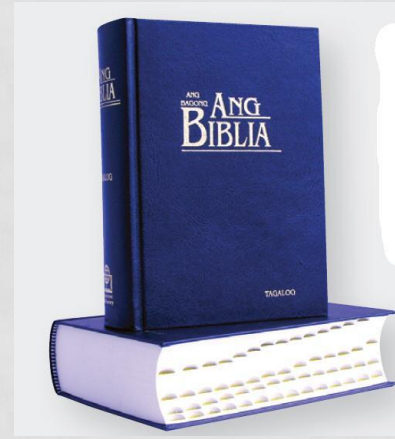
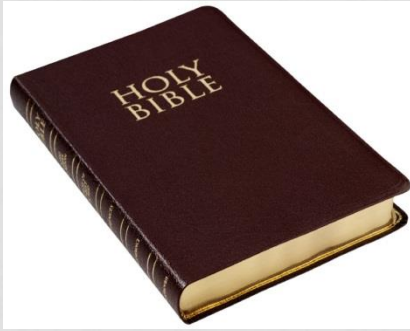
REV. VERNON IBE
Pastor, Berean PRCP



**BEREAN
PROTESTANT REFORMED
CHURCH**



P150 registration fee includes free lunch and snacks for the whole-day conference. For reservation and more information, please contact: *Rod Bongat*, Tel. 655-4679 Mobile: 0926-6487217 Email: ckb_ps@yahoo.com

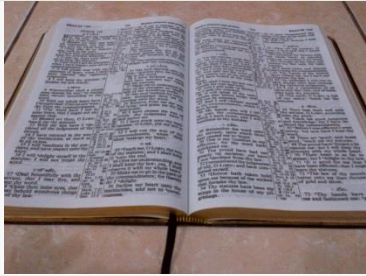


THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD OVER ALL THINGS

THE SCRIPTURE

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God ..." (II Tim. 3:16).

"... holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (II Pet. 1:21).



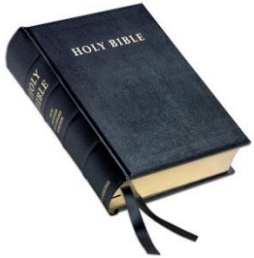
INTRODUCTION

- **The state of things in the church world today (even in Reformed churches) is appalling.**
 - E.g., Evolutionism, women in office, accept homosexuality.
 - Will worship, divorce & remarriage, allow false doctrine, etc.
- **What is the root cause of it all?**
 - Have denied God's sovereignty with regard to Scripture.
 - This has led to denying the authority of Scripture.
 - Churches have therefore lost their spiritual foundation.
- **That makes this subject crucially important.**
 - If we do not maintain the truth of God's sovereignty with regard to Scripture, the same will happen to us.

GOD'S ABSOLUTE SOVEREIGNTY AND THE DIVINE INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY MEANS:

- 1. GOD IS THE SOLE AUTHOR OF SCRIPTURE**
- 2. THERE IS NO HUMAN ELEMENT IN SCRIPTURE**
- 3. THE SCRIPTURE HAS DIVINE ATTRIBUTES**



GOD THE SOLE AUTHOR: (A) OPPOSITION TO THIS

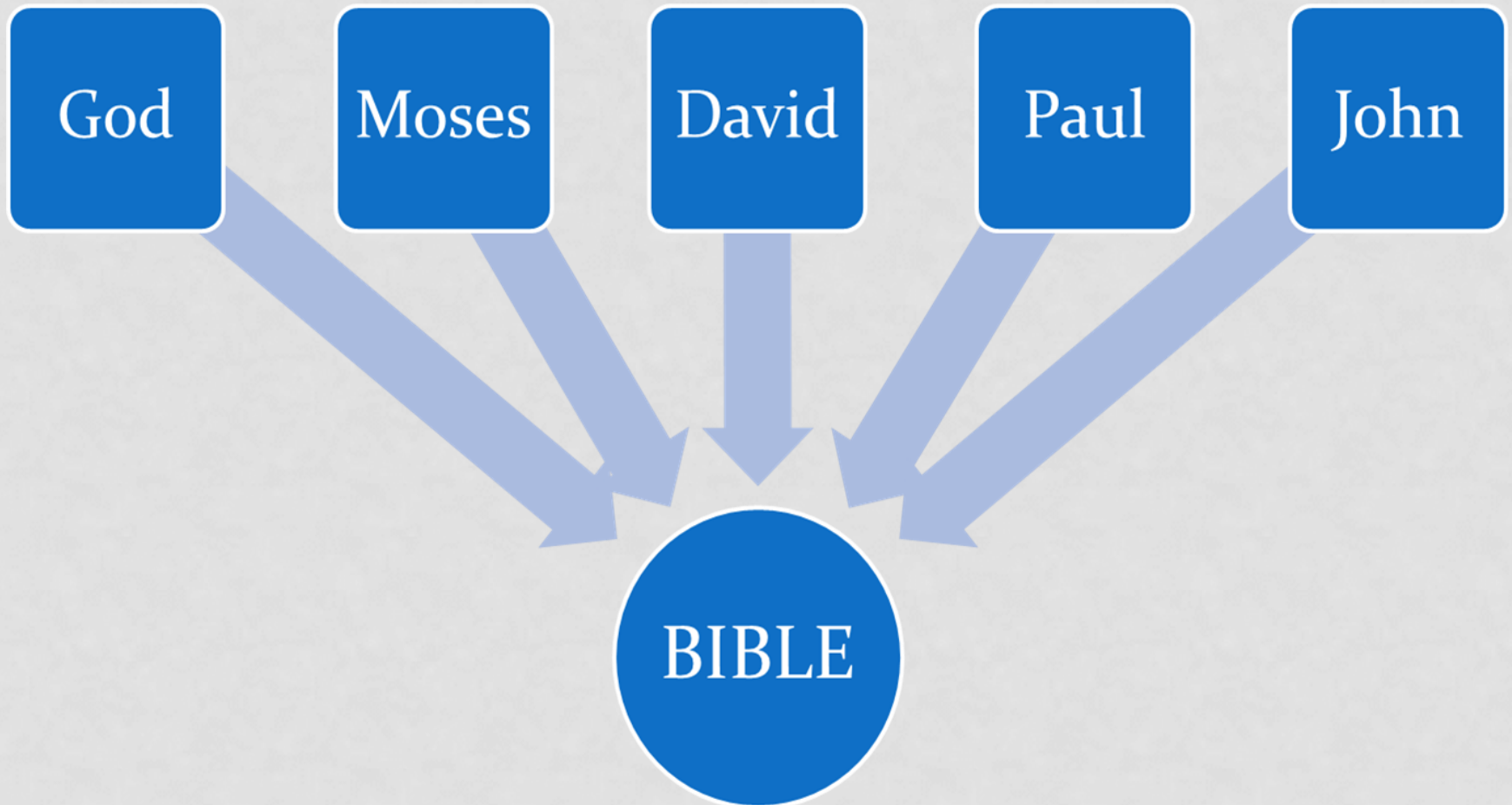
1. This truth opposed by Higher Criticism

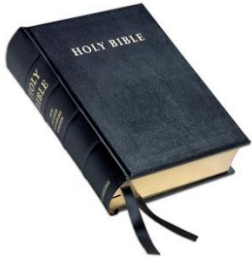
- Arose in Germany in 17th and 18th centuries. An attack on Scripture by modern philosophy and rationalism.
- Said: “Men were co-authors with God. Scripture is a human production. A useful book, but not absolutely God’s Word.”

2. Truth rejected because of influence of Arminianism

- Their view that man has a decisive role to play in salvation directly influences their view of Scripture.
- When they introduce a human element in salvation, they also introduce a human element in the writing of Scripture.
- That’s an inevitable result, for Scripture is directly connected to God’s Work of salvation – is the divine record and revelation.

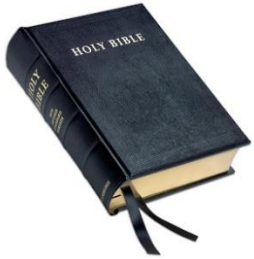
ERRONEOUS VIEW OF BIBLE'S AUTHORSHIP:





GOD THE SOLE AUTHOR: (B) THE TRUTH

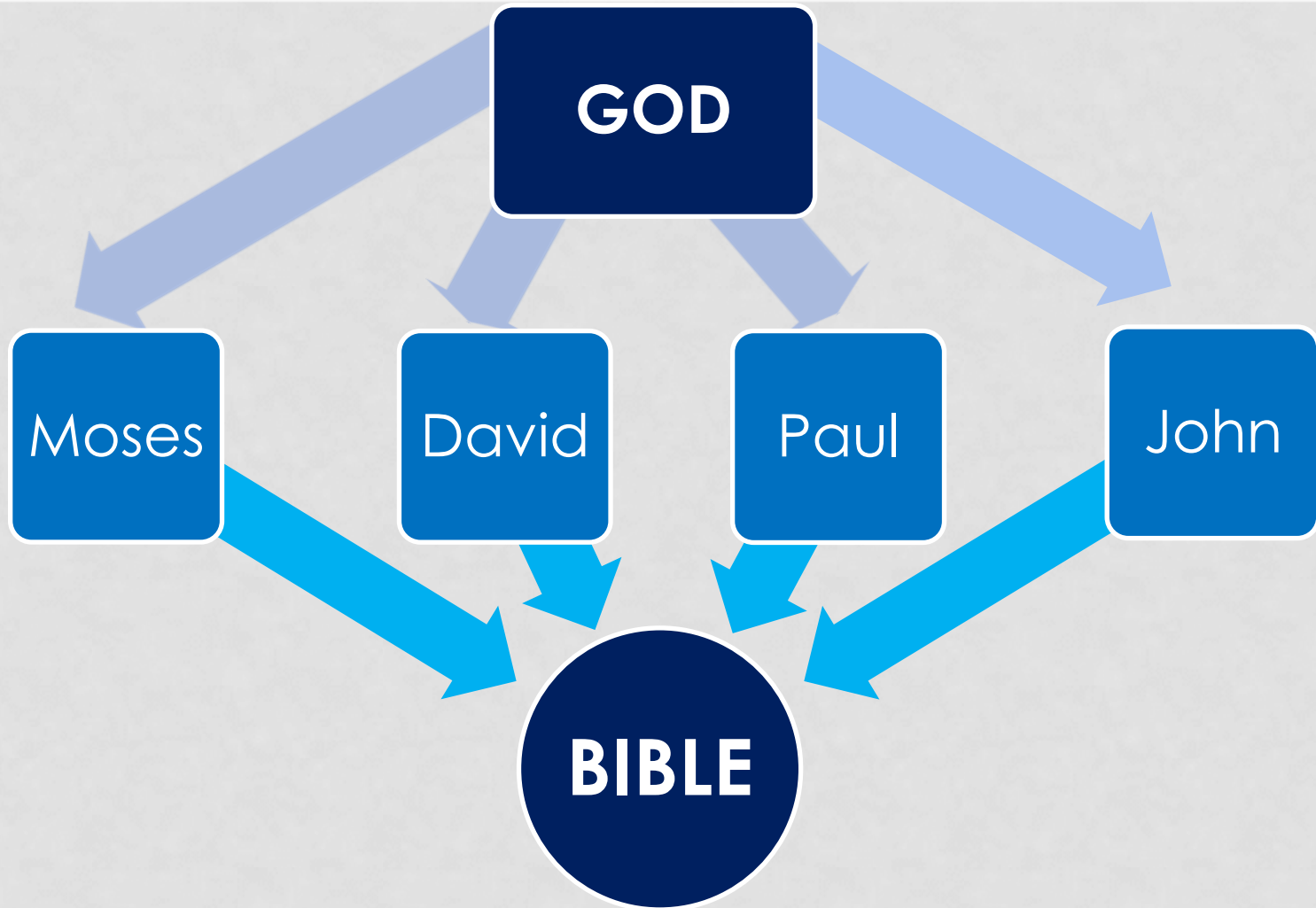
- Belgic Confession, Art. 3 – Of the Written Word of God:
 - *We confess that this Word of God was not sent, nor delivered by the will of man, but that holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost, as the apostle Peter saith. And that afterwards God, from a special care which He has for us and our salvation, commanded His servants, the prophets and apostles, to commit His revealed word to writing; and He Himself wrote with His own finger, the two tables of the law. Therefore we call such writings holy and divine Scriptures.*
- Westminster Confession of Faith, Ch. 1, Art. IV:
 - *The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed and obeyed, dependeth not upon the testimony of any man or church, but wholly upon God (Who is Truth itself) the Author thereof; and therefore it is to be received, because it is the Word of God.*

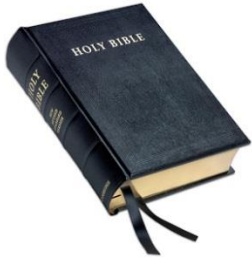


GOD THE SOLE AUTHOR: (B) THE TRUTH

- God is sovereign with regard to writing the Scripture!
 - It is true that God used men. E.g., Moses, David, Ezekiel,
 - But these men were instruments in His hand to write His words.
- *“Divine Inspiration is that act of God whereby He moved, illumined, and infallibly directed men to write down His Word.”*
- The following are not true:
 1. “The Bible contains words of God AND words of men.”
 2. “The Bible is a human book with a divine message.”
 3. “The Word of God is IN the Bible.”
- The Scripture has one Author: God Himself, by His Spirit.

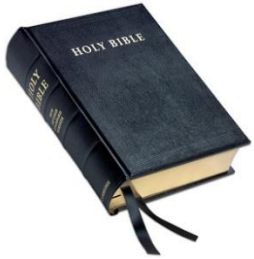
CORRECT VIEW OF THE BIBLE'S AUTHORSHIP:





GOD THE SOLE AUTHOR: (B) THE TRUTH

- Why do we believe God is the sole Author of Scripture?
 - Because the Bible itself says so!
- II Timothy 3:16-17
 - “All scripture is God-breathed” – not men’s words, but God’s words.
 - “God-breathed” is passive.
 - If active, then it would mean “all scripture breathes (speaks) of God.”
 - Passive means that “God breathed out (spoke) the Scripture.”
- II Peter 1:20-21
 - “holy men spake from God” – their words had their origin in God.
 - “moved by H. Spirit” is passive: God initiated & produced the words
- Galatians 3:8 & Romans 9:17
 - “The scripture preached ...” “The scripture saith to Pharaoh ...”
 - Complete identity between the written word, and God Himself.



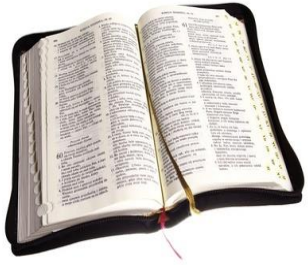
GOD THE SOLE AUTHOR: (C) OBJECTION

- Objector: “You use the Bible itself to prove God is its Author. That’s a circular argument. That’s invalid.”
- Our answer to this objection:
 1. We do the same when determining the author of any other book – the book itself says who the author is.
 2. We approach the Scripture with faith, and don’t need proofs.
 - Faith says: “I can tell by reading the Bible that God is its Author. I recognize His signature in every chapter and verse.”
 - Thus: “I know it because these are the things God would say to me. I recognize this as God’s love-letter to me. I am 100% sure.”
 - [Illustration: compare it to receiving a letter from your spouse.]

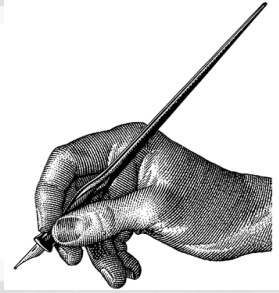
GOD'S ABSOLUTE SOVEREIGNTY AND THE DIVINE INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY MEANS:

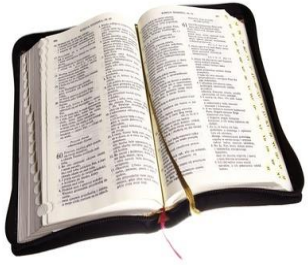
- 1. GOD IS THE SOLE AUTHOR OF SCRIPTURE**
- 2. THERE IS NO HUMAN ELEMENT IN SCRIPTURE**
- 3.**



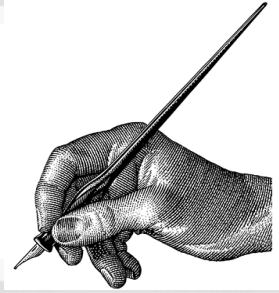
NO HUMAN ELEMENT (A) THE OPPOSITION



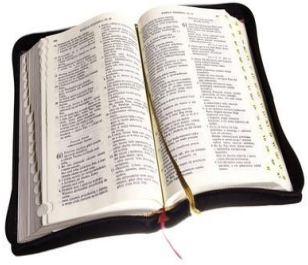
- **Objector: “God is the Author, but He used men.”**
 - Bible reflects the ideas of these men. Their views were shaped by their culture, and the times they lived in.
 - Bible has a human element. We must determine what is “divine” and what is “human.” Can ignore the “human.”
- **Warnings re admitting there is a “human element.”**
 1. You create doubt about every part of the Bible.
 2. You admit there could be (will be) errors in the Bible.
 3. You will eventually say none of the Bible is God’s Word.
 4. You lose the gospel of salvation, and salvation itself.



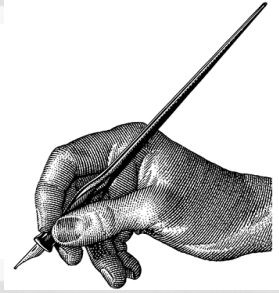
NO HUMAN ELEMENT (B) THE TRUTH



- The explanation for no “human element” is **SOVEREIGNTY**.
- **Sovereign Predestination with regard to Scripture.**
 - The Bible reflects the unique personalities, experiences, abilities, writing styles, etc. of the men God used.
 - But God eternally decided what men He would use.
 - Also eternally decided what each of them would write.
 - Also eternally planned everything about these men.
- **Sovereign Providence with regard to Scripture.**
 - The men God chose to write were prepared by God in their lives for the work. Each man was uniquely fashioned by God’s hand to write what God had eternally assigned to him.
 - When they wrote, they were not robots – (“typewriter theory”).
 - God did not over-ride their abilities, characteristics, etc. Bible itself is proof of that.
 - The Bible contains their imprint, but because of the Spirit’s work, the Scripture is wholly the Word of God.



NO HUMAN ELEMENT (B) THE TRUTH



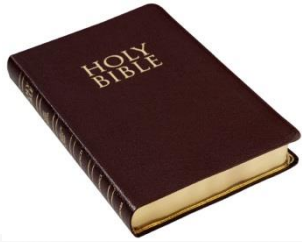
Homer C. Hoeksema, *The Doctrine of Scripture*

- “By stressing that this entire theory of human factor and human element is to be rejected, we must adhere strictly to the truth that Scripture, the Word of God written, is wholly divine. There is but one “factor” in its production: God in Christ.” (p. 75).
- “It is my contention that unless we are willing to proceed from the principles of God’s sovereignty and of His eternal counsel and His sovereign realization of His own counsel as a working principle, we shall never be able to understand properly any of the works of God’s grace, including the work of Holy Scripture. Unless we are willing to understand that all that belongs to the production of Holy Scripture, including the human writers themselves, is subsumed under the embrace of the absolute sovereign will and activity of the Most High, we shall never be able to maintain the truth that ... Holy Scripture is the Word of God, but will fall victim to views which are principally synergistic and dualistic.” (p. 87).

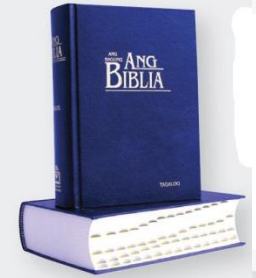
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DIVINE ATTRIBUTES OF SCRIPTURE



1. INFALLIBILITY

- Because God is the Author, it is impossible for the Bible to have errors.

2. TRUSTWORTHINESS

- Because God is the Author, the Bible is reliable. You can trust it is true.

3. UNITY

- Because God is the Author, there is one Word of God – The Gospel.

4. AUTHORITY

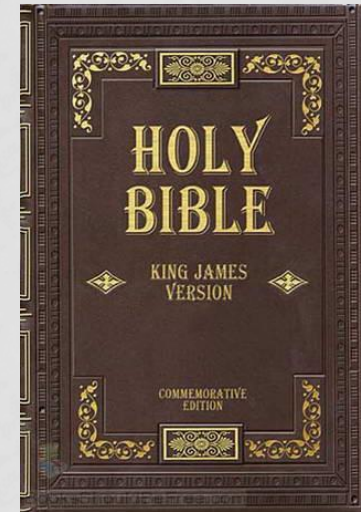
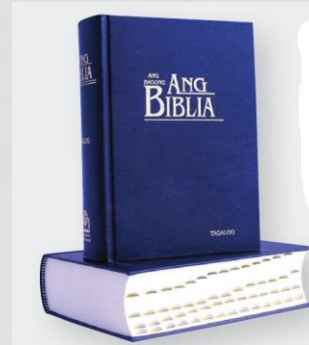
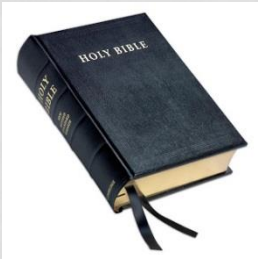
- Because God is the Author, the Bible is the only rule for faith and life.

5. SUFFICIENCY

- Because God is the Author, the Bible contains all we need for salvation.

CONCLUSION

- **Be thankful for the Bible:**
 1. For the Bible itself.
 2. For God's work in producing it for us.



- **Use the Bible:**
 1. As the only rule for faith and life.
 2. Take it with you every day of your life.
 3. Read it daily as a “love-letter” from your Bridegroom.

