

SOLA SCRIPTURA

(2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 119; Psalm 19:7-11)

(The Book, The Whole Book, And Nothing But The Book)

Series: The Five Solas of the Reformation (Part 1)

...This Tuesday, October 31st, we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of the day when Martin Luther fixed his "95 Theses" to a church door in Wittenberg, Germany. This was the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. At the time Luther was a friar in the Catholic Church and had no desire to form a split from his church, but was moved to try and purify and change many of its unbiblical practices. For his efforts, he was excommunicated...

...During those days, God raised up a number of men who "Rediscovered the Gospel", and brought their generation back to the Word of God. Men like John Calvin, William Tyndale, and John Knox stood strong in "Contending for the faith once delivered." (Jude 3) Since we have so little knowledge of the church from previous generations it will be helpful for us to gain an understanding of those who came before us.

...The five "Solas" are often used to describe in a summary fashion Christianity's foundational truths. These are essentials: Sola Scriptura, Sola Fide, Sola Gratia, Solus Christus, and Sola Deo Gloria. Today: "Sola Scriptura."

TWO QUALITIES OF THE SCRIPTURES THAT PROVIDE EVERYTHING WE NEED FOR LIFE. God gave us absolute truth in the Bible, that will never change, be updated, or revised. Let God be true, and every man a liar. God's Word is established in the heavens...it tells of Jesus.

I. The Bible Possesses The Distinction Of Being The Very Breath Of God. (v.16)

A. Paul wrote, "All Scripture is God-breathed."

1. Scripture has its origin in God. The Bible is His idea. It is His book for His family.
2. The Bible, in its entirety, has this unique quality, not just parts of it. "All Scripture"
3. Some translate this "Inspired." It is better thought of as "Expired" from God.

B. Peter told us how the process actually occurred. (2 Peter 1:21)

1. He wrote, "Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."
2. Therefore, the Bible is the result of both human and divine involvement.
...God used over 40 men to write the 66 books of the Bible, and kept them from error by the Holy Spirit who superintended the process over 1500 years.
...In this way, it is likened to the incarnation of Jesus. God used a sinful woman, Mary, and the Holy Spirit, Who came upon her, and Jesus was born without sin, perfect in every way, the Son of God, the Living Word. The same is true of the Written Word.

C. The result: We hold in our hands God's absolute truth. You may put your total confidence in it!

II. The Bible Is Sufficient For All Our Needs To Live, Grow, and Serve The Lord.

(vv.16-17) "...That the man of God would be competent, equipped for every good work."

..."Profitable" means they are sufficient and useful. Paul told of the 4 ways that it is sufficient:

A. The Bible is sufficient for "teaching."

1. You cannot live a spiritual life without knowing spiritual truth. It is impossible to...
2. The wisdom and guidance for fulfilling everything God commands us to believe, think...
3. The "Natural man does not accept this...it is foolish to him." He is blind. (1 Cor. 2:14)
...The unbeliever is not stupid, He is spiritually dead, and in love with his sin.

B. The Bible is sufficient to "reprove" a believer when holding wrong thoughts or when living in sin.

1. God's Word exposes all falsehood and sin, wrong belief and ungodly conduct.
2. The Word brings conviction of sin. Not always confession, but conviction...
...A regular and careful study of the Word exposes sin in a believer's life. (Heb 4:12)

3. Every believer knows that during times of disobedience he/she is strongly tempted to forsake Bible study, worship, and fellowship with other believers...due to sin in his life. ...This is why a Bible teaching church is never a haven for persistent sinners...
- C. The Bible is sufficient for "correcting" the believer.
 1. The word "correcting" meant to set upright or helping a person back onto his feet.
 2. After exposing and condemning false beliefs and sinful conduct, Scripture then builds. ...This is the Bible's positive provision for those who accept its negative reproof.
- D. The Bible is sufficient for the life-long "training" of Christians in right living. The Bible enables us, as believers, to become increasingly like our Lord and Savior.

SO WHAT? WHAT DIFFERENCE SHOULD THIS MAKE IN MY LIFE?

1. You should have a renewed sense of confidence in the only book God ever gave. The Scriptures are the sole source of authority for us as Christians. It has everything we need to come to know Jesus as our Savior and how to grow into the likeness of our Lord.
2. Daily make it your habit to feed your faith by reading, studying, and meditating on the Scriptures. Have a set of memory verses that you can review each day.
3. As you study the written Word, make it your aim to see the Living Word, the Lord Jesus throughout the pages of Scripture. He is seen in Genesis 1 as the Creator and the entirety of the Bible unfolds the person and work of the Lord Jesus. Jesus said, "Search the Scriptures they teach of Me..." Remember, Jesus does not first "show-up in Matthew."
4. Have you come to hear the wonderful story about God's amazing love for lost sinners...and that He has done everything that needed to be done to save us from what we deserve. God invites you to believe upon His Son and receive Him as your personal Savior and Lord. Will you do so today?

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When did you first discover the Bible to be the Word of God? Who did God use to bring you to know and love your Bible?
2. Some say today that the Bible is authoritative in spiritual matters, but not in matters related to history or science. How would you respond to this statement?
3. The Bible is "God's Family Book." The "Natural Man does not receive the things of the Spirit for they are foolish to him." (1 Corinthians 2:14) Have you seen this in friends and family who have not yet received Christ? How have you seen them respond to the clear teaching of the Word? Do they appear to have blinders on their heart and eyes?
4. Do you agree that when we as believers choose to live in unconfessed sin, that at the same time usually our reading and studying of the Scriptures also takes a "Hit?" Why is this so?