

Sola Scriptura

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Sola Scriptura – Review (1 of 3)

- Martin Luther
 - Backbone of the Reformation: 5 Solas

Sola Scriptura – Scripture Alone	What do we go for knowledge of God?
Sola Fide – Faith Alone	How are we saved?
Sola Gratia – Grace Alone	Free will, or no choice?
Solus Christus – Christ Alone	Are other beliefs acceptable to God?
Soli Deo Gloria – God’s Glory Alone	What is the meaning of life? Anything

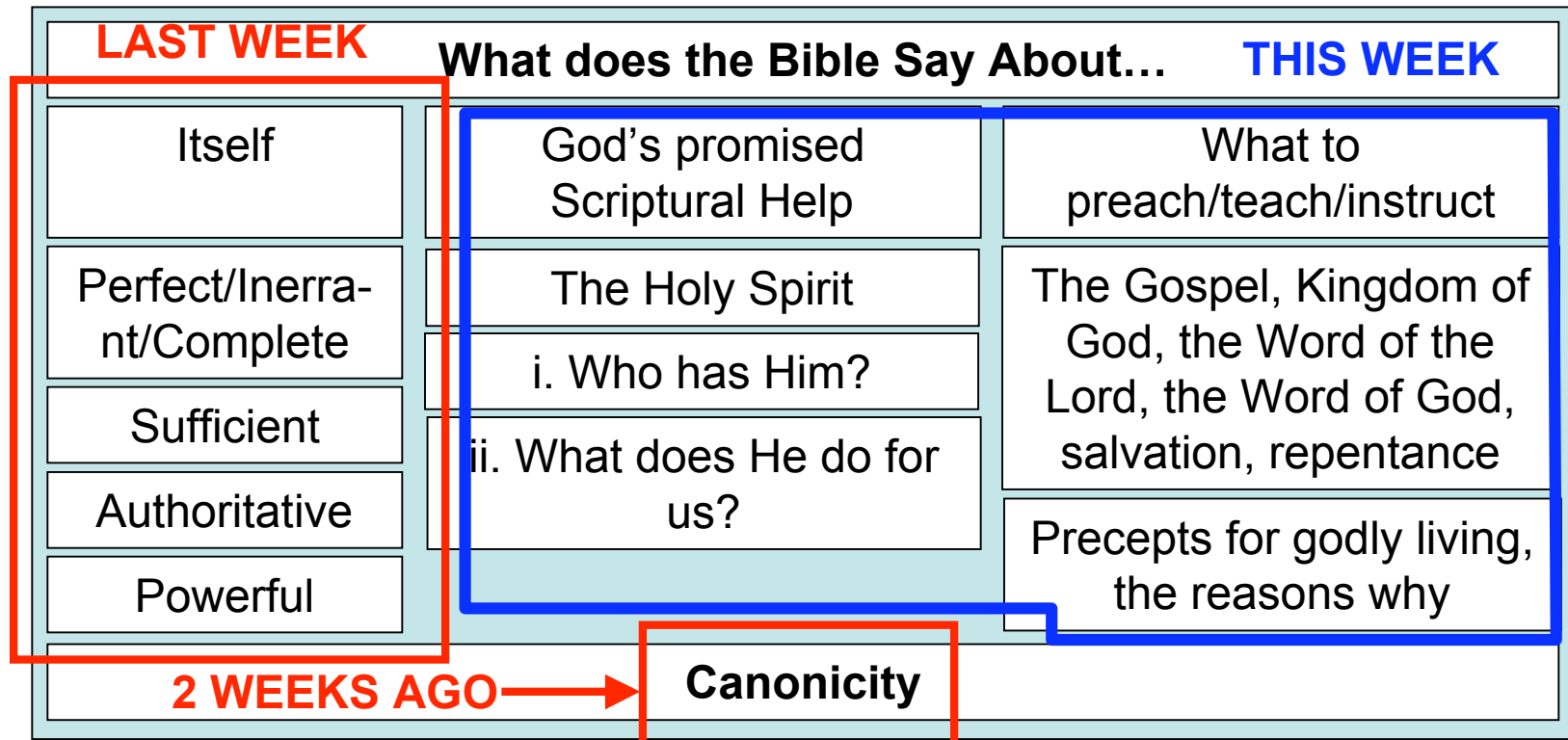
- Sola Scriptura is the doctrine of The Word, really. The concept of Sola Scriptura (in basic language) states that the Bible is God’s holy, perfect, sufficient, and complete Word that anybody can read since the Holy Spirit dwells in all true believers and helps them to sufficiently understand the text. Not only is no other text required, but the practice of including other texts is condemned. **(+pg 270)**

Sola Scriptura – Review (2 of 3)

- Why this is important
 - All groups that claim to be a denomination of Christianity (a very diverse collection) HAVE to have some stance on what the Bible is.
 - According to Scripture we are imperfect and can not add anything to Scripture, so we either believe it and go by it alone or don't go by it at all. If so, all doctrinal conflicts need to be held to it (2 Cor 10:3-6)
 - People grab on to this topic for many reasons – hopefully this series equips you all with God's truth to do His work!
 - Nothing effects our lives (and how we live them) more than our view of God – and the Biblical view of God is different than all others.
- How do we go about determining whether SS is right?
 - Either way, *by its very definition*, the Bible can be counted on to either prove or disprove the veracity of both the concept of Sola Scriptura as well as its opposite – whether or not the Bible should be the sole source of truth and read by all.
 - **ex·e·ge·sis** - critical explanation or interpretation of a text or portion of a text, esp. of the Bible.
 - **eis·e·ge·sis** - an interpretation, esp. of Scripture, that expresses the interpreter's own ideas, bias, or the like, rather than the meaning of the text.

Sola Scriptura – Review (3 of 3)

- There are even different interpretations of Sola Scriptura, so how do we know whether we believe it or not?
 - What is important to know is what topics Sola Scriptura encompasses, and then do word & topical studies to see what Scripture says about those things, then combine those results and see how well Sola Scriptura aligns with what we've found the Word to say.



Sola Scriptura: A Note of Clarification

- Slide 16 of last week had the statement, “Not the paper, ink, or binding, just the words, the meaning – the message is what has authority, not the physical book.”
- It is the exact words, not just the general idea or anything like that. That is why we study the original languages, grammar, etc. **Matthew 5:18** makes this clear.
 - “For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”

Sola Scriptura: The Holy Spirit

- April 8th, 1546 the Council of Trent recorded their decree from their second session that included the following statement (which I won't read, but you'll have for your reference):

- ...in order to restrain petulant spirits, It decrees, that no one, relying on his own skill, shall,--in matters of faith, and of morals pertaining to the edification of Christian doctrine, --wresting the sacred Scripture to his own senses, presume to interpret the said sacred Scripture contrary to that sense which holy mother Church,--whose it is to judge of the true sense and interpretation of the holy Scriptures,--hath held and doth hold; **[Page 20]** or even contrary to the unanimous consent of the Fathers; even though such interpretations were never (intended) to be at any time published. Contraveners shall be made known by their Ordinaries, and be punished with the penalties by law established.

From [http:// history.hanover.edu/texts/trent/ct04.html](http://history.hanover.edu/texts/trent/ct04.html)

Sola Scriptura: The Holy Spirit

- What does all that “old school” lingo mean?
 - The purpose of this restriction was to stop petulant spirits (def. irritable, easily angered).
 - Why not just deal with the angry people in your congregation according to **Matthew 18**?
 - The decree was that nobody should rely on his own skill to interpret Scripture on matters of faith, or morals pertaining to Christian doctrine.
 - Right, we rely on the Holy Spirit. Also, if we don't read Scripture for matters of faith (or morals that relate to doctrine) that means we don't read Scripture at all.
 - **Acts 17**: Berea was a town and Bereans were people who lived there (specifically the Jews who were in the synagogue as the passage calls out). They read the Scriptures to ascertain whether or not the **matters of faith** that Paul was talking about were true. They were not priests or anything else, they were the common Jews.
 - The “holy mother church” could be wrong, could drift over time, and is why we were given **2 Cor 13:5, 10:3-6** (re: us, everything) in the Scriptures.
- Since most people do not go to seminary, what makes us think that we have any business reading the Bible? Why not just rely on those men who are qualified, meaning they are a degree-holding priest/pastor/elder? Why not, just to be safe?
 - Because then we would be disobedient to Scripture. How about **Josh 1:7,8, Ps 19, Ps 119, Job 23:12**...and the many other Scriptures like them?

Sola Scriptura: The Holy Spirit

- **John 14:16, 17, Acts 2:38, 19:2, Gal 3:14, Eph 1:13**...MANY more, state that when you repent of your sins and believe in Christ you receive the Holy Spirit.
- **1 Jn 2:27** “As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.”
 - Recognize this in the context of the passage, addressing the problem of false teachers. If they abide in His Truth (the Word) then they’ll be able to recognize false teachers.
 - Matthew Henry: Not that this anointing will teach you without the appointed ministry. It could, if God so pleased; but it will not, though it will teach you better than we can: “*And you need not that any man teach you,*”. You were instructed by us before you were anointed; but now our teaching is nothing in comparison to that. “*Who teacheth like him?*” (**Job 36:22**). The divine unction does not supersede ministerial teaching, but surmount it.
 - We are to abide in Christ, how do we abide in Him? Well, **James 4:8** says to draw near to God and He will draw near to us...so how do we do that? **vv6-7** tell us – God gives grace to the humble and opposes the proud, we are to submit ourselves to God, to submit to His Word and His Will for us.
 - Again, we abide in Him by turning from sin, putting on righteousness. We learn what righteousness is by His Word, and then do those things, transformed by His Word. That is the only way we are able to discern what is good, and acceptable, and perfect. (**Rom 12:2**)

Sola Scriptura: The Holy Spirit

- A great Holy Spirit passage, 1 Cor 2:10-16
 - For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the *thoughts* of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*. But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.

Sola Scriptura: The Holy Spirit

- The Spirit is mentioned here as being omnipresent and omniscient. It also mentions how The Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God
 - **Isa 55:8-9** “...as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.”
 - **Rom 11:33-34** “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR?”
 - Who among men knows the thoughts of a man, except the spirit of the man which is in him?
 - **Jer 17:9** “The heart is deceitful, who can understand it”
 - The Holy Spirit is in us, using God’s Word to help us discern between good and evil as we actively engage in living out our faith (**Heb 4:12 & 5:14**). Do we recognize the supernatural dynamic, the internal operation that is happening when we read Scripture and try to apply it to our lives?
 - **Heb 5:14** “But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil. ”
 - Do we take the Holy Spirit for granted, or are we really, really thankful for Him?
 - After all, nobody can be saved without hearing the Word (**Rom 10:17**), and we can not understand it unless we have the Spirit. We can’t do the Lord’s work without Him, because we wouldn’t understand anything we need to do His work.
- Nowhere in Scripture is there noted the existence of a special allotment of the Holy Spirit to those with degrees, or those who hold certain positions in the church.

Sola Scriptura: Holy Spirit

- Conclusion: If we believe in Christ we have the Holy Spirit, and He uses the Word (thus we have to know it, *which means we have to read it*) to help us discern the difference between righteousness and evil as we practice living out our lives by faith. Not external cleansing, but internal cleansing (progressive sanctification). This is to be a continual work...we are to abide in Him, in other words, continually (without interruption) go to the Word and live out our lives by faith, actively working with Him in our sanctification.

Sola Scriptura: What we are to teach...

- It comes down to two things: The Gospel, Precepts for Godly Living
- Again, not exhaustive lists, but sufficiently complete as to give a clear demonstration of the character of the whole list of verses dealing with these topics
- The Gospel
 - **Mat 4:17, 23, 10:7, 28:20, Mark 1:4, 16:15, Luke 4:18-19, 9:2, Acts 5:42, 10:42, 14:15, 15:35, 18:11, 20:32, 28:31, 1 Cor 4:17**
 - All have the simple command, “Teach _____”
 - _____ = Gospel, Kingdom of God, Word of the Lord, Word of God, what Christ commanded, Favorable Year of the Lord, salvation, and repentance.
 - All terms are Word/Gospel-centric

Sola Scriptura: What we are to teach...

- The Kingdom of Heaven/God
 - Referring to God's kingdom of those who belong to Him. Its now manifest in heaven's spiritual rule over the hearts of believers, but in the future will be established in a real earthly kingdom (**Rev 20:4-6**)
- Salvation/Repentance
 - What the Gospel is all about!
- The Favorable Year of the Lord
 - Luke 4:18-19 comes from Christ's reading of Isa 61:1-2a in the synagogue. The term is the same as "a day of salvation" (49:8) and "My year of redemption" (63:4). Thus, this also directly refers to the Gospel.
- The Gospel
 - **1 Cor 15:1-4**, for one of several boiled down Gospel statements in the NT. Two others are **Titus 2:11-14**, and **3:4-7**.
- What Christ Commanded
 - Remember The Great Commission, Mat 28:18-20 "And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.""
 - "The Great Commission would be The Great Omission if we were to teach anything other than what He taught us!" (I forget where that quote is from)
 - Jesus wasn't forgetful
 - In many passages throughout the gospels Christ tells us to believe in Him, to follow Him, and everything else He taught has to do with that.

Sola Scriptura: What we are to teach...

- Precepts for godly living, and the reasons for them
- Precept – a rule, instruction, or principle that guides somebody’s actions, especially one that guides moral behavior (Encarta Dictionary)
- There are lots of passages containing these, a great example passage is **Titus 2:1-10**
 - Paul writes to Titus how godly character looks in older men, older women, younger women, younger men, bondslaves (i.e. all who work and have bosses), as well as some precepts for Titus himself (i.e. spiritual teachers/leaders)
- There are passages for children, parents, husbands, wives, those who govern, those who are governed, elders, deacons, those who lend, those who borrow...
- But really **Gen 1:1 – Rev 22:21** apply to all Christians (i.e. the requirements for eldership that Paul wrote to Titus are elsewhere written to all who follow Christ)
 - So why called out separately? **James 3:1** “Let not many *of you* become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.”
 - This verse is NOT meant to discourage, as **1 Tim 3:1** states “It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires *to do*.”
 - God has called men to be leaders – but before they step up, they need to get dressed, count the cost, and be tried (**Eph 6:10-17, Luke 14:28, 1 Tim 3:10**)

Sola Scriptura: What we are to teach...

- Reasons why...
 - Using Titus **2:1-10** as an example again, Paul states 5 reasons why those behavioral guidelines were to be followed
 - So that no one will malign the Word of God
 - So that those who appose us may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us
 - So that in every way we will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive
 - So that those who have trusted in God will be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good
 - In order that we may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives. (actually, this is from **Ch 3** 😊)
 - We want our witness, our testimony of Christ's work in our lives to be as blameless as possible so that we can give God the glory (reveal Him to those around us). Everything we do should point out that we are different – we know the one true and real God, real faith, real love, real forgiveness. We do not want anything of ourselves to hinder the administration of the Gospel.

Sola Scriptura: What we are to teach...

- What does the Bible say about what we are not to teach?
 - **Gal 1:6-9** – NOT another gospel, anything else isn't "a gospel" at all!
 - Strange doctrines and the doctrines of men, esp. when they go against God's Word. (ex: **Mark 7:7-11**)
 - Endless genealogies, myths, speculations, foolish and ignorant controversies... **Titus 3:9, 1 Tim 1:4, 2 Tim 2:16, 23**

Sola Scriptura: What we are to teach...

- 3 verses that have caused some confusion
 - **2 Th 2:15** “So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word *of mouth* or by letter from us.”
 - Now read it in context, the entirety of Chapter 2
 - Talking about the Day of the Lord, and false teaching about it
 - **v10** – “...the love of the truth so as to be saved...”, what is truth? **John 17:17** “your Word is truth”
 - **2 Th 3:6** “Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.”
 - **1 Cor 11:2** “Now I praise you because you remember me in everything and hold firmly to the traditions, just as I delivered them to you.”
- These verses are often quoted by themselves (i.e. no surrounding verses) to justify the implementatino and teaching of various traditions or myths that are not in Scripture.
- When read in context it is clear they are not referring to hidden traditions that are not present in Scripture. The gospel accounts and letters were still being written during the time of the writing of these letters. John’s revelation still needed to happen and be recorded to close the account (canon). Paul was instructing the churches in Corinth and Thessalonica to hold fast to the teaching they received from him orally and in written form until everything that was needed was written down and they no longer needed to rely upon the oral transmission.

Sola Scriptura: What we are to teach...

- Conclusion: We are to teach
 - The Gospel
 - Precepts for godly living (How it looks to live out The Gospel)
 - The reasoning behind those precepts.

Sola Scriptura: Conclusion

- After looking at what Scripture says about...
 - Itself
 - Perfect/Inerrant, Complete, Sufficient, Powerful, Authoritative
 - The Holy Spirit
 - Who He is, what He does for us, and How He does His work
 - What we are to teach
 - The Gospel, Precepts for godly living (and the reasons behind them)
- The conclusion is: the Bible we hold today, without the Apocryphal/Psuedepigraphal writings, is the inspired Word of God. The Bible is a collection of writings that men recorded for God (we recognized their divine origin), and has complete authority over everything we do, and are to teach. We all should read it as it is an integral part of how the Holy Spirit's works in us in our sanctification. We also need to read it in order to discern whether or not we come under false teaching.

Concluding Exhortation

- We just finished a 4 part series that took me 7 parts in SnL (a lot of material!)
- Knowledge can puff up
- Chuck Swindoll quote last week:
- Often calls to evangelism use panic as a motivator (you never know when time is up – car/plane/metrolink, disease, natural disasters...)
 - This is all true
- I'm from Minnesota, where everybody and their dog fishes
 - My folks were city folk from Winnipeg – never fished
 - I went a couple times, and really enjoyed it
 - I would not call myself a fisherman
- Mark 1:17, “And Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” ”
- Would you consider yourself a fisher of men?
- The Lord ordains whether the nets are empty or breaking-full, but are you casting your net? How often?