

Sola Scriptura

2 Timothy 3:10-16 (NIV)

Hey Newsong!

I want to take a moment and welcome our first time guests and those who are worshiping with us online!

10 You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, 11 persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. 12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it,

15 and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.-2 Timothy 3:10-16 (NIV)

Pray

In the fall of 1516 a 32 year old German Monk named Martin Luther was teaching through the book of Romans at the university of Wittenberg.

He began studying and meditating on these words by the Apostle Paul...

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

17 For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last,^[e] just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”-Romans 1:16-17 (NIV)

The righteous will live by faith...Luther had a revelation that turned into something we call the Protestant Reformation.

At the time, Pope Leo X was selling indulgences to help build St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. For a few pence you could pay down the amount of time you would have to spend in purgatory...In other words, salvation was on sale...There was even a saying *“As soon as the coin in the coffer rings/ The soul from Purgatory springs.”*

Salvation was up for sale...which is as far as you can get from the gospel...

On October 31st 1517 Luther posted his 95 theses on the church door...it was a turning point in church history...

Out of the Reformation came five Latin phrases...five central truths about called Solas...The word sola means “alone”

Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone)

Solus Christus (Christ Alone)

Sola Gratia (Grace Alone)

Sola Fide (Faith Alone)

Soli Deo Gloria (To the Glory of God Alone)

We hear a lot about people deconstructing their faith today...and that's what happened during the Reformation...

The Reformers didn't invent the five solas, they rediscovered them...They had gotten buried under religious practices

See, deconstruction is good if you're tearing down the walls of false teachings...as long as you reconstruct on a solid foundation of the truth...

Today we're going to start with Sola Scriptura and my prayer is that when we're done you will maybe deconstruct some beliefs about Scripture that are actually making your foundation faulty...

And you will reconstruct your walk with God built on the firm foundation of Scripture...

So what is Sola Scriptura and why does it matter?

When we say we believe in "Sola Scriptura" we're saying that The Bible and only the Bible is the authoritative Word of God. We're saying that the Bible alone has the final say when it comes to our faith and how we live it out...

Go back to the Reformation...When you boil it down you see that the central issue was who has the authority? Is what the Pope says, or what the church says equal to what the Scripture says?

Who has the final say when it comes to salvation? Who has the final say on Who God is? Who has the final say on how we get right with God? Who has the final say on what grace is?

Sola Scriptura is important because it declares that

The Bible has the final SAY

Again, this isn't a concept that was made up by the reformers, it's something we see all through the Bible...

Not me...not our culture...not our world...Scripture Alone... Sola Scriptura

3 He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.-Deuteronomy 8:3 (NIV)

Now if you're here today and you're skeptical of the word of God...first of all I want to let you know that we're glad you're here...We're glad that you're searching for the truth...

You may be thinking you can't use the Bible to prove that the Bible is true...Bear with me for a second...God spoke these words through Moses and then over 1,000 years later Jesus quoted this verse when He was being tempted by the devil in Matthew 4

4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted[a] by the devil.

2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”4 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’[b]”-Matthew 4:1-4 (NIV)

In other words, Jesus not only believed that Deuteronomy is the Word of God...

He believed that God’s Word was sufficient, that you can’t live without it, but that if you have it, you have all you need to get through this life...

Consider what Moses said to the children of Israel as they were getting ready to go into the promised land...

45 When Moses finished reciting all these words to all Israel,

46 he said to them, “Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. 47 They are not just idle words for you—they are your life. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.”-Deuteronomy 32:45-47 (NIV)

Jesus believed that it was God’s Word that we build our life upon...

He believed God’s Word wasn’t just sufficient, it was authoritative...in other words when the scripture speaks...God is speaking...So It didn’t matter what kind of word play the devil was using...

Jesus didn’t fight back with His opinion...He fought back with the Word of God...because God’s Word trumps any other word...

12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.-Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)

The Bible is **GOD BREATHED**

“The Bible covers the gamut of human experience. You’ve got comedy & tragedy, history and theology, poetry, prophecy and philosophy.

There are musicals called the psalms, documentaries called Kings & Chronicles, there are gospels, & epistles, it’s the most comprehensive longitudinal study in human history”-Dr. Mark Batterson

All that time, all those different authors from different walks of life, yet it all flows together, it all tells a story...How is that even possible?

It goes back to our main text...The Scriptures are God-breathed The Greek Word is **theópneustos** (*theh-op'-nyoo-stos*)

Theos = God + pneo = to breathe or blow
The Scriptures are God breathed meaning they're divinely breathed or given by the inspiration of God...

Scripture is God breathed...

That's an interesting phrase and to really understand it, let's go all the way back to Genesis 2

7 Then the LORD God formed a man[c] from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.-Genesis 2:7 (NIV)

God breathed the breath of life into the nostrils of Adam and Adam became a living

being...Likewise, God breathed into the writers of Scripture...He inspired them with words to write...

He didn't put them in a trance like some kind of zombie...and have them dictate word for word what He wanted...

No, when we read Scripture we see that God is speaking through their personality, through their history, through their circumstances

21 For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.-2 Peter 1:21 (NIV)

Think of it like this...when we read the Bible we're reading what the Holy Spirit exhaled 1,000's of years ago...All Scripture is God-breathed...If you want a word from God, you need to pick up the Word of God!

You don't just read the Bible...The Bible reads you...The goal isn't to get through this book...the goal is to get this book through you!

The goal is to get the Scriptures from your head to your heart...We're not reading it for information, we're reading it for transformation...

This is how we renew our minds and discern the good, perfect, and pleasing will of God (Romans 12:2)

This is how we download the mind of Christ...Understand that this is the written Word and Jesus is the living Word...

Sola Scriptura means the Bible has the final say, we believe it's God breathed

The Bible is **USEFUL**

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful...

It's useful...so that means we should use it! We should be reading it...if we're not reading it we are starving spiritually speaking...

Let me just say it this way, we are blessed to have so many good preachers and teachers of the Scripture...But if your spiritual diet consists of the Sunday sermon and maybe a Bible study during the week...you're spiritually starving!

So, we have a Bible reading plan...Yeah we're five months in, but it's not too late to join the party!

Pastor Cyndie and I read our Bible together in the morning with our coffee, because everyone knows that the Scripture hits differently with cafe' con leche!

If you don't have a physical Bible, we will give you one...You can start with the Youversion App...

But listen, before the reformation the Bible wasn't available to the general public. It was believed that only the church and the priests were qualified to read and understand the Scriptures...

People literally died so that you can have this Bible in your language...maybe you should read it and see why they were willing to die? The Bible is useful...Paul gives us some specifics...but we've got to go through them fast...

The Bible is useful for **TEACHING**

As Dr. Tony Evans comments "it instructs you in the truths that you need to know"

Two thoughts here...

The Bible doesn't speak to every situation...

I had a spark plug go bad on our truck...When I started it up the engine was spitting and sputtering all over the place...

The Bible doesn't tell me how to diagnose a problem with my truck, or how to change a spark plug...It offers no help in that area...I can't turn to a chapter and verse for that...

But you said it's the highest authority...It is on what it speaks about...

The Bible has the final say on everything that the Bible means to say something about!

My second thought is this...

The Bible is true, but that doesn't mean that it's the only book that gives truth to the world. This is why we send our children to school and not seminary...

The Bible doesn't claim to teach all of the truth you can ever learn...All truth is God's truth.

Nature leads to truth, reason leads to truth,
experience leads to truth...

Sola Scriptura means that the Bible is the
highest authority and teaches me the truths that
I need to know about who God is, who we are,
how I can have a relationship with Him, and
how I should live my life as a child of God...

It's useful for teaching...

All of our beliefs, all of doctrines come from the
word...Sola Scriptura means that the Word of
God is our foundation...There is no definitive
revelation equal to Scripture outside of the
Scripture...

Remember, the Roman Catholic church was
teaching that traditions and all of their teachings
were equal to Scripture...

Sola Scriptura says all of my experiences, all of my traditions, all of my doctrines have to submit to the Scriptures...

Think about our fundamental truths...

Where did we get those? We get them from the Scriptures...

The Word of God tells me that the Scriptures are God-breathed...

The Word of God tells me that the Scriptures are God-breathed...

The Word of God tells me that there is One True God...

The Word of God tells me that although my sin separates me from God, I can be reconciled back to Him because of Jesus...

The Word of God tells me that I have the witness of the Holy Spirit in me and that He leads me, guides me, teaches me, and helps me bear fruit...

The Word of God tells me that the Holy Spirit empowers me...baptizes me in the Holy Spirit...gives me a new prayer language...gives me spiritual gifts to be used to build up the church...

The Word of God tells me that Jesus is coming back for His church...

These doctrines haven't been added to the Bible...they come from the Bible!
The Bible is useful for teaching

The Bible is useful for **REBUKING**

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking,

It lets us know that we're wrong...The Word of God shows us where we've strayed away...It's divine correction...

This is a book that gets in your face...
This is a book that steps on your toes...
It calls you out...

You can't ignore injustice anymore...
You can't hate your enemies anymore...
You can't live selfishly anymore...
You can't ignore your sin anymore...
It won't let you...

This isn't just another book that you read...
This book reads you...
It reads your thoughts and your motives...
You don't just investigate it...It investigates you!
You don't just interpret it...It interprets you to
yourself so you know who you are

James tells us that God's Word is like a
mirror...it shows us where we need a
makeover!

Now here's where we run into a problem...

Sola Scriptura says that Scripture has the final say...that it's the highest authority

And let's be honest we live in a culture that wants to have the final say...

It's called moral relativism...How a person thinks or feels is right for them...They have the final authority...

It doesn't matter what God's Word says about marriage, about sex, about gender, about the sanctity of human life, about taking care of the widow, the orphan, the refugee, your neighbor... It doesn't matter to them...

But it matters to God!

His Word will continue to speak and divinely correct...and we will be judged by God's standards not ours!

The Bible is useful for **CORRECTING**

The Bible doesn't just point out what's wrong...it tells us what's right! A ruler will show you that something is crooked but it will also give you the standard for what is straight!

In John 17 Jesus prays for us and He says

17 Sanctify them by[d] the truth; your word is truth. -John 17:17 (NIV)

James says

22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.-James 1:22 (NIV)

Now again...here's where people tend to get tripped up...

God's Word clearly speaks with authority and we don't like it...or we don't agree with it...we pick and choose what parts of the scripture that we like and we're-interpret the parts that we don't like...

That's not Sola Scriptura that's "sort of scriptura" If God's Word has the final say, it has the final say...

So here's the tension...Because the Holy Spirit will just keep applying divine pressure to our hearts until we surrender...When we surrender then He helps us live it out

The Bible is useful for **TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS**

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

17 so that the servant of God[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The Word is our map and the Spirit is our guide...He's guiding us...Helping us to live a God-first life...a holy life...an abundant

life...The life that God has planned out for us before we were formed in our mother's womb

The psalmist wrote

9 How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. 10 I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. 11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.-Psalm 119:9-11 (NIV)

God has given us everything we need to live a godly life...

And when we live by Sola Scriptura we will be equipped for every good work...The goal of God's Word is good works...

God is not going to say "Well read my good and faithful servant"

He's not going to say "Well said my good and faithful servant"

He's not going to say "Well thought my good and faithful servant"

No, one day Jesus will say "Well done My good and faithful servant..."

The Word in us produces good works through us that others can see and it points everything back to God...He gets all the glory!

When we live by Sola Scriptura and not sort of Scriptura...we become a walking gospel...
In other words, you are the only Bible that some people may ever read...

It's our responsibility as followers of Jesus to read this Word and live it out for the world to see!

Sola Scriptura...Scripture alone...

My Traditions...

My Experiences...

My Reasoning...

Must be filtered through Scripture...

Scripture is the final authority when it comes to matters of faith and doctrine...

“The Bible wasn’t meant to be audited. Do not merely listen to the Word. Don’t audit the Word of God. Do what it says.”-Dr. Mark Batterson

Sola Scriptura...

What’s the Holy Spirit saying to you?

Father, we need Your help. Give us a hunger for Your Word...It is living and active...

It is God-breathed...help us to ingest it...to surrender to it...to apply it...to renew our minds with it...

Word of God continue to teach us, rebuke us, correct us, train us, so that we will be well equipped to do everything You’ve called us to do! In Jesus’ name, Amen.

I want to pray for you if you are here today and you're not a follower of Jesus...If you're honest you'll admit that you're living your life according to your word not Gods...

You are the highest authority in your life...God has brought you here today to let you know that He is God and He loves you...It's time to surrender your life to Him!

Altar Time