



WHY THE REFORMATION STILL MATTERS

Five Hundred Years 1517-2017

Spare Everything Except the Word

September 17

Psalm 19:7-9

Core Values

1. Adherence to a high view of God.
2. Recognition of the final authority and total sufficiency of Scripture.
3. Teaching an accurate doctrine of man.
4. Affirmation of the foundational and functional purpose of the local church.
5. Operation upon the priority of biblical leadership.
6. Functioning as a community that loves God and loves others.



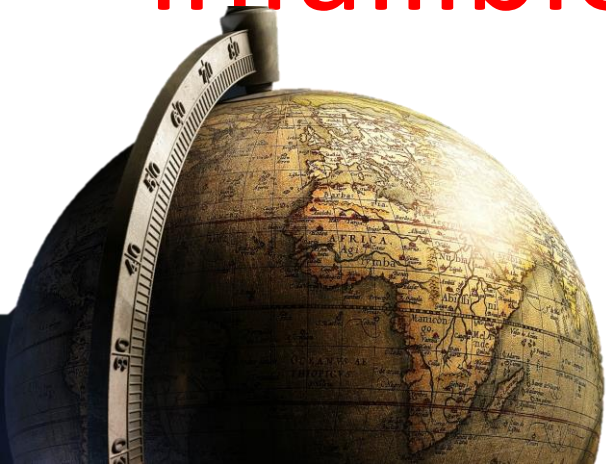
The Bible Church
OF LITTLE ROCK

Loved By God • Redeemed By Christ • Empowered By the Spirit

Affirmations

We affirm the Authority and Sufficiency of Scripture

The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments **alone** are the **trustworthy, infallible, inerrant** Word of God.



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Doctrinal Statement



Article I – THE SCRIPTURES

We believe in the verbal, plenary inspiration of the Scriptures.

- **Verbal** – that in the original writings the Holy Spirit guided the choice of words used while preserving the individual writer's style and vocabulary.
- **Plenary** – that every portion of the Bible is infallible as to its truth and final as to its divine authority.

2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 Corinthians 2:13; John 5:39



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In The Very Midst Of Life

**NEXT TO THE WORD OF GOD, THE NOBLE ART OF
MUSIC IS THE GREATEST TREASURE IN THE WORLD.**

MARTIN LUTHER

In the very midst of life, snares of death surround us.
Who shall help us in this strife, lest the foe confound us?
Thou only, Lord, Thou only.



In The Very Midst Of Life

In the midst of death's dark veil, powers of hell overtake us.
Who will help when they assail? Who secure will make us?
Thou only, Lord, Thou only.



In The Very Midst Of Life

In the midst of utter woe, when our sins oppress us,
where shall we for refuge go? Where for grace to bless us?
To Thee, Lord Jesus, only.

Thy precious blood was shed to win, full atonement for our sin.

Dark Ages



The harsh, plague-ridden conditions in Europe during the Middle Ages forced Europeans to face and accept mortality and death.

Media vita in morte sumus:
“In the midst of life, we die”

Dark Ages



The darkness percolating spiritually during the Middle Ages resembled the bleak physical conditions of the times.

Media vita in morte sumus:
"In the midst of life, we die"

Dark Ages



The Reformation occurred in this era,
and out of death and darkness came
life and light through the power of the
gospel of Jesus Christ.

From Death to Life,



From Darkness to Light



Post Tenebras Lux After Darkness, Light

Martin Luther turned the phrase,
"In the midst of life, we die," on its head
by pointing to the gospel and stating,
"In the midst of death, we live."

From Death to Life,

From Darkness to to Light



Martin Luther



“Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me.”



The Relationship between Scripture & Tradition of the Church

The Council of Trent

“... seeing clearly that this truth and discipline are contained in the written books, and the unwritten traditions ...”



The Relationship between Scripture & Tradition of the Church

The Council of Trent

According to the Roman Catholic Church, there are two sources of special revelation—Scripture and tradition.

There is an ongoing controversy in the Roman church regarding Trent's declaration because of the inherent ambiguity of the Latin terms used.





JOHN WYCLIFFE

sola scriptura

Def'n. *Scripture only*, from the Latin expression adopted by the Reformers who said that it is the Bible, not tradition or a church, which is our final authority.



JOHN CALVIN

JOHN KNOX



HEINRICH BULLINGER



ULRICH ZWINGLI





JOHN WYCLIFFE

“The Law of Christ, when perfectly executed, teaches most rightfully how every injustice must be extirpated from the commonwealth, and how those offending against the law should be chastised.”

JOHN WYCLIFFE



JOHN CALVIN

JOHN KNOX



HEINRICH BULLINGER



ULRICH ZWINGLI





JOHN WYCLIFFE

“[T]hat to discern that there is nothing but vanity in all worldly devices, we must know the Laws and ordinances of God. But if we rest upon men’s laws, surely it is not possible for us to judge rightly.”

JOHN CALVIN



JOHN CALVIN

JOHN KNOX



HEINRICH BULLINGER

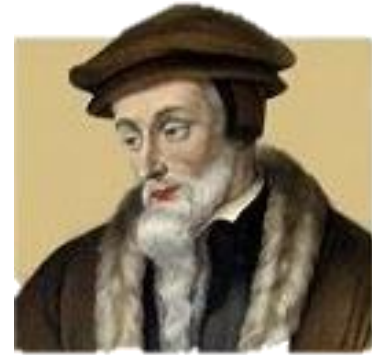


ULRICH ZWINGLI





JOHN WYCLIFFE



JOHN CALVIN

“For He [God] will that His word alone be obeyed, and that the life be regulated by it alone.”

ULRICH ZWINGLI

JOHN KNOX



HEINRICH BULLINGER



ULRICH ZWINGLI





JOHN WYCLIFFE

“[K]ings are not set as lords and rulers over the word and laws of God; but are, as subjects, to be judged of God by the word, as they that ought to rule and govern all things according to the rule of his word and commandment.”

HEINRICH BULLINGER



JOHN CALVIN

JOHN KNOX



HEINRICH BULLINGER



ULRICH ZWINGLI





JOHN WYCLIFFE

“Kings then have not absolute power to do in their regiment what pleaseth them; but their power is limited by God’s Word. So that if they strike where God commandeth not, they are but murderers; and if they spare, where God commandeth to strike, they and their throne are criminal, and guilty of the wickedness that aboundeth upon the face of the earth for lack of punishment.”



JOHN CALVIN

JOHN KNOX



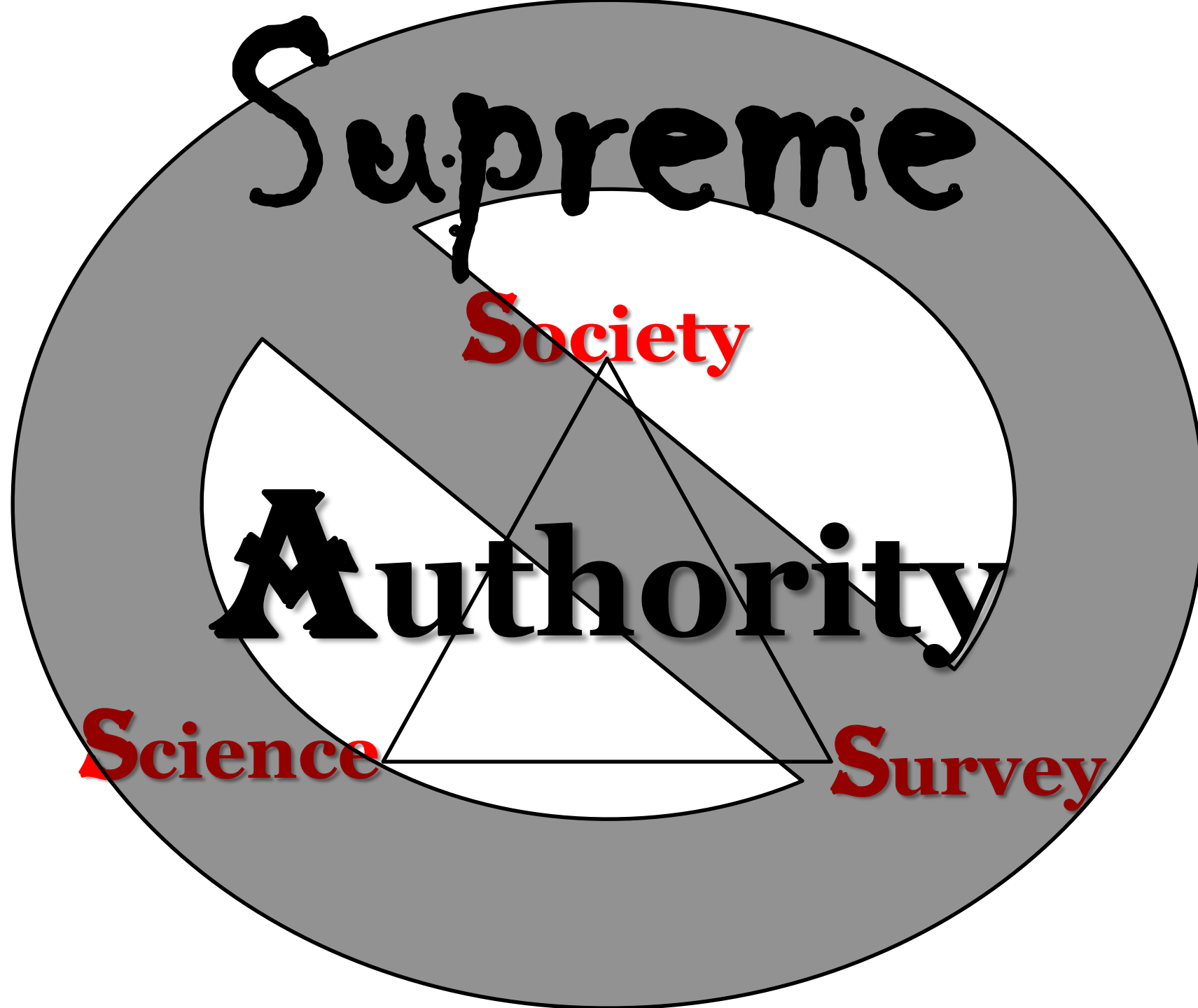
JOHN KNOX

HEINRICH BULLINGER



ULRICH ZWINGLI





Supreme

“And this is the sum of the matter: Let everything be done so that the **Word** may have free course instead of the prating and rattling that has been the rule up to now. **We can spare everything except the Word.** Again, we profit by nothing as much as by the **Word**. For the *whole Scripture* shows that the **Word** should have free course among Christians.”

Matthew 4:1-11
Luke 1:1-4; 10:26
Acts 17:11-12
1 Corinthians 4:6

Authority



Westminster Confession of Faith



"The supreme judge by which all controversies of religion are to be determined, and all decrees of councils, opinions of ancient writers, doctrines of men, and private spirits, are to be examined, and in whose sentence we are to rest, can be no other but the Holy Spirit speaking in the Scripture."

(WCF, 1:10)



Sola Scriptura



**According
to Christ**

We can spare everything except the Word.

**According
to O.T. Writers**

**According
to Apostles**



Sola Scriptura



**According
to Christ**

A. Jesus appealed to Scripture when God's Word was challenged

Matt 4:1-11

B. Jesus defended truth with Scripture rather than refer to oral tradition

Mk 7:7-13

C. With 100 references to Scripture Jesus bypasses reliance upon oral traditions

Matt 12:3, 5; 21:42

D. Jesus expected the Scriptures to be understood

Matt 22:29; 26:24, 54; Mk 12:24; Lk 10:26; 20:17; John 5:39



Sola Scriptura



Inspired apostles with genuine oral revelation directed others to the scriptures for the final determination of truth

Acts 17:2, 11-12; 18:28

Apostolic Practice

1 Tim. 4:13

Scripture is clear and understandable

2 Tim. 3:15

Eph. 3:2-5; 2 Cor. 1:13

Scripture alone is all-sufficient for life, morality, conduct and doctrine

2 Tim. 3:16-17

1 Tim. 3:14-15

2 Peter 1:3-4

1 John 2:1

According to Apostles



Sola Scriptura



**According
to O.T. Writers**

OT Writers

Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32

Proverbs 30:5-6

Revelation 22:18-19

Belgic Confession¹⁵⁶¹



"Therefore we must not consider human writings-- no matter how holy their authors may have been-- equal to the divine writings; nor may we put custom, nor the majority, nor age, nor the passage of time or persons, nor councils, decrees, or official decisions above the truth of God, for truth is above everything else. For all human beings are liars by nature and more vain than vanity itself. Therefore we reject with all our hearts everything that does not agree with this infallible rule. . ."

(Article 7: The Sufficiency of Scripture)

Practical Implications



“Church history has repeatedly and clearly proven one thing: **once the highest view of scripture is abandoned** by any theologian, group, denomination, or church, the downhill slide in both its *theology* and *practice* is inevitable ...”

James White

The Absolute & Utter Sufficiency of Scripture



I. Sufficiency of Scripture

Title of the Word of God

Characteristic of the Word of God

Benefit of the Word of God

II. Value of Scripture

Greatest Possession

Greatest Pleasure

Greatest Protection

Greatest Profit

Greatest Purification

III. Commitment to Scripture

Psalm 19:7-14