

Reformation Series: 'The 5 Solas'

Title: **Scripture Alone**

Scripture text: 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church

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I mentioned last week that this is the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

It was a movement trying to reform the Roman Catholic Church and protest against the theological errors they saw.

It was a Bible movement.

A move back to the Bible as the final and ultimate source of truth and authority.

The church at that time said there were 2 sources of authority and truth.

Scripture AND tradition.

or another way to say it is:

Scripture AND the traditions of the Pope and councils.

There were all kinds of traditions and practices that weren't in the Bible but were taught as scripture.

***Examples would be:***

- priests not being *able* to marry,
- indulgences [which were grants sold to people to buy their loved ones out of purgatory. The money from these went towards building St. Paul's cathedral.]
- and theological doctrines like the virgin Mary being sinless.

The reformers said no to these things and many others.

They sought to return to Scripture alone or Sola Scriptura.

(It might be added that they had their own flaws as well even in their attempt to reform.)

When Martin Luther was brought in before the Diet (assembly) of Worms in 1521, he was questioned and ordered to recant of his protest against these abuses, his response was as follows:

***“Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason - I do not accept the authority of the popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other - my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. God help me. Amen.”***

In 1546 the Roman Catholic Church gathered at the Council of Trent to draw up some doctrinal responses to the Reformers.

On the Reformers stance of Scripture Alone, here is the response:

**seeing clearly that this truth and discipline are contained in the written books, and the unwritten traditions which, received by the Apostles from the mouth of Christ himself, or from the Apostles themselves, the Holy Ghost dictating, have come down even unto us, transmitted as it were from hand to hand; (the Synod) following the examples of the orthodox Fathers, receives and venerates with an equal affection of piety, and reverence, all the books both of the Old and of the New Testament--seeing that one God is the author of both --as also the said traditions, as well those appertaining to faith as to morals, as having been dictated, either by Christ's own word of mouth, or by the Holy Ghost, and preserved in the Catholic Church by a continuous succession.**

So, there it is.

Scripture alone or scripture plus traditions of the church????

Is the Bible enough?

Is the Bible authoritative?

Is the Bible sufficient?

Or does the Bible share authority with another source?

Let's turn to **2 Timothy 3:14-17**

**14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.**

A very important phrase in this passage are the words 'Breathed out by God'.

What does that mean?

Does it mean that scripture is simply *inspiring or inspired*?

The word used there is foundational.

It means literally what most of your Bibles say. It is "God breathed."

It means exhaled or expiration not inspiration.

The words on these pages are God's word to us.

**As B.B. Warfield said, “When the scripture speaks, God speaks.”**

God is perfect.

God cannot lie.

When he speaks, he speaks truth.

Therefore, God’s word is perfect and it is truth.

**John 17:17 says,**

**“17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”**

This doesn’t mean that God’s word is *true*.

It means more than that.

It means God’s word is **TRUTH**.

It will never be wrong.

It will never be out of style.

Everything must be held up to it.

If it doesn’t match up with God’s word it is false and wrong.

It will never be updated.

It will never be added to or subtracted from.

**Deuteronomy 4:2 says, “You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you.”**

**Revelation 22:18-19 says,**

**“I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book,**

**19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.”**

God warns of serious consequences of adding to or taking away from his word.

Let's look back at our passage in 2 Timothy.

Is scripture enough?

Is it sufficient?

**14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.**

- Scripture is able to make us wise to salvation.
- Scripture is profitable/sufficient for teaching.
- Scripture is profitable/sufficient for reproof and correction.
- Scripture is profitable/sufficient for training in righteousness.

- Scripture is sufficient to make us competent and complete and equipped for EVERY good work.

Someone may ask the question....which scripture?

Does the Bible not mean here just the Old Testament?

How can we know the New Testament is included in this, since they were writing it at the time?

**2 Peter 3:15-16**, Peter calls Paul's writings "Scripture".

**15 And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, 16 as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.**

Now the word that Peter here uses in relation to Paul's writings is only referred to as the Scripture itself.

Peter, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit calls Paul's letters **BIBLE**. That's amazing.

In **1st Timothy 5:18**, Paul quotes a passage from Luke's gospel and calls it Scripture.

**17 Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. 18 For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves his wages.”**

That phrase ‘The laborer deserves his wages’ is a quote from Jesus in Luke 10:7.

Paul believes Lukes gospel is **BIBLE**.

The scripture...the Bible is without error and cannot fail and will never pass away.

It is one and only original source of truth that is ‘God breathed’ and written down for our instruction.

As the Baptist document this church was founded upon says, **“It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction”**.

**R.C. Sproul says, “We can find the truth of God in places besides the Bible. We can find it in sound books on theology, insofar as they are sound, but they are not the original source.”**

Well, nearly all of you would say...”Yes, yes I know all of this. I believe the Bible is true.”

But do we believe the Bible is sufficient?  
Do we go to the Bible for every answer?  
Are we people of the book?

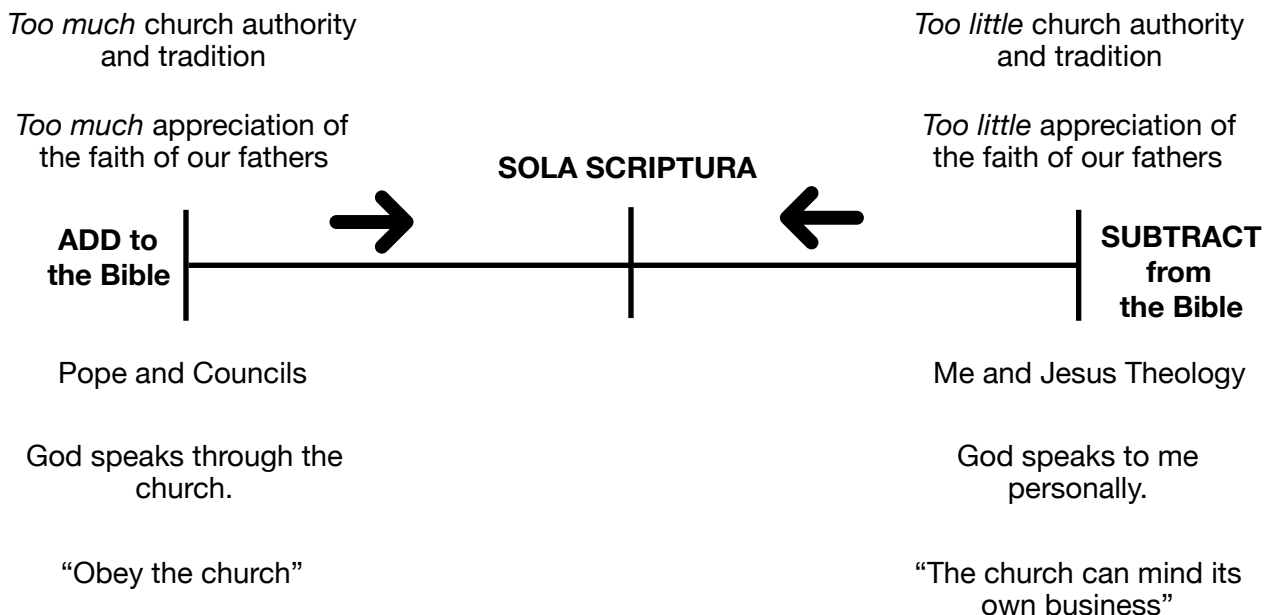


Or do we say, “Well, this is what I think.”

Or “My opinion is.”

What we think is not that important nor is our opinion.  
God word is what’s important.

As a way of application let me point you to the error of  
the church of the 1500’s and contrast it with some of  
our errors today.



What is the answer?

Get back to the Bible.  
Scripture Alone!

For most of us it’s not a matter of believing the Bible.  
For some it is.

For most of us the real question is not a question of whether we believe the Bible or not....

It's a question of whether we LOVE it.