

Sola Scriptura

2 Tim 3:13-17 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The following are some quotes from the Formula of Concordia an early document of the Reformation. It begins, "We believe, teach, and confess that the sole rule and standard according to which all dogmas together with [all] teachers should be estimated and judged are the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures of the Old and of the New Testament **alone**, (*Emphasis mine*) as it is written Ps. 119:105; Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. And St. Paul: Though an angel from heaven preach any other gospel unto you, let him be accursed, Gal. 1:8. Other writings, however, of ancient or modern teachers, whatever name they bear, must not be regarded as equal to the Holy Scriptures . . . To this direction, as above announced, all doctrines are to be conformed, and what is, contrary thereto is to be rejected and condemned, as opposed to the unanimous declaration of our faith. In this way the distinction between the Holy Scriptures of the Old and of the New Testament and all other writings is preserved, and the Holy Scriptures alone remain the only judge, rule, and standard, according to which, as the only test-stone, all dogmas shall and must be discerned and judged, as to whether they are good or evil, right or wrong."

This is a most excellent statement concerning the bed rock cry of the Reformation, "Sola Scriptura" - Scripture Alone. Prior to the invention of the printing press we can be thankful for the Monks who made copies of the Scriptures for us. But of great importance was the fact that in the providence of God at the very time of the Reformation God allowed that the printing press should be brought into use for the greater ability to provide the Scriptures to a greater amount of families of the Reformation. No doubt many of you today have in your possession a copy of Holy Scripture; you need to be thankful to Almighty God for such a blessing for in the middle-ages throughout the whole of Christendom the Bible was a forbidden book to the common people. As we noted last evening at the Reformation Banquet that the Council of Tarragona of 1234, in its second canon, the church mind you, ruled that: "No one may possess the books of the Old and New Testaments, and if anyone possesses them he must turn them over to the local bishop within eight days, so that they may be burned..."

Yet Scripture is the very foundation of our faith and practice. So as we today observe the 493 anniversary of that day in October when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Thesis to the door of the Wittenberg Church and the fires of the Reformation began to burn in the hearts of God's people, let us give God thanks for that time when God raised up men in His church to call the elect of God to that glorious Reformation. This morning I plan to take as my subject for the message the foundational cry of the Reformation "Sola Scriptura". Let us consider this under these headings: 1) The blessing of Scripture Alone 2) The necessity of Scripture Alone 3) The requirement of Scripture Alone

A. The blessing of Scripture Alone - *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God*

1. Here Paul tells us that the Scriptures are "God breathed" (Gk. Theoneustos)
 - a. First note "all" Scripture - from Genesis to Revelation is God breathed
 - b. That is literally God Himself speaking to us through His written Word
2. The Scriptures are the very word of God
 - a. Prophecy never came by the will of man
 - b. Men spoke as they were moved or carried along by the Spirit of God

2 Peter 1:19 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

3. It is God's revelation of Himself to us
4. When you read your Bible understand you are listening as it were to God Himself speaking to you

A. The necessity of Scripture Alone

1. There is no way natural or fallen man could know God without this revelation

*1 Cor 2:9-12 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, **yes, the deep things of God**. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.*

- a. Natural man has no way of knowing God for such knowledge has never entered the heart of man
 - b. But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit
 - c. The Spirit of God alone knows the things of God - **yes, the deep things of God**
 - d. Thus the Scriptures are the very Word of God from the Spirit of God revealing who God is
2. Without such revelation we could not know God or anything about Him

Rom 3:11 There is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. I

3. Scriptures alone are able to make us wise unto salvation
 - a. One cannot know of Christ by natural revelation
 - b. Only in Scripture can one come to know the Lord Jesus as the Christ

Luke 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

B. The requirement of Scripture alone

1. There will always be false teachers in the church therefore *you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of*
 - a. We are to preach the Word

2 Tim 4:2-3 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine

- b. In season or out of season that is when men desire it or reject it
2. Our obligation as the Church of Christ is to convince, rebuke and exhort with all longsuffering

CONCLUSION -

The blessing - it is the faithful Word - *Isa 55:10 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*

The necessity - *Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Rom 10:17)*

The requirement - God commands us to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered (Jude 3)

It cannot fail - *Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. (Matt 24:35)*

Let us faithfully continue the cry of the Reformation - Sola Scriptura