

Doctrines of the Reformation

Sola Scriptura - Scripture Alone

2 Timothy 3:13-17

Series introduction - Luther - 1517 - (nailed) 95 Theses - mainly against unscriptural practice of selling indulgences but also other non-Biblical traditions of the Church. He was excommunicated in January of 1521

April 1521 - Imperial Diet at Worms - commanded to recant his writings
Responded - **"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."**

Subsequently kidnapped for his own safety, hidden he translated New Testament into German. The doctrines of the Reformation can be summarized as 5 "Sola" statements - we will look at 4 in the coming weeks

Sola Scriptura - by Scripture Alone **Sola Fide** - by Faith Alone

Sol Christo - through Christ alone **Sola Gratia** - by grace alone

What is Sola Scriptura? The doctrine that the Bible is the ultimate authority
Belgic Confession - Westminster Confession - Anglican 39 articles

What it is not

- * A rejection of general revelation - the heavens declare the glory of God **Ps19**
- * A denial of the church's significance or authority or Biblical traditions
- * A denial that Christ is the true Word of God
- * A guarantee of perfect knowledge or perfect practice

What it is

- * An affirmation that the Bible alone is the written Word of God
- * A statement confirming that the Bible is true, authoritative and reliable

The Bible is unique

In its Continuity - 1600 years, 60 generations, 40 authors, 3 continents, 3 languages, many controversial subjects BUT - one united voice.

In its Circulation - Far and away most published and popular book ever.

In its translation - translated into more languages than any other (2932)

In its survival - it has survived in the ravages of man - outside and inside

In its honesty - the sins and failures of the heroes of the Bible are included

In its influence - Influence on cultural, history, peoples and you

In its predictions - 332 distinct Old Testament predictions fulfilled in Christ

In its truth - today 1/1000 of text in question and no significant doctrines

Problems - 250 Years after written till it was recognized (not chosen)

- 1500 years before it was printed and widely distributed

- Not available in all languages - high rate of illiteracy

Answer - The Word is true - not based on its availability - God lights all

Biblical bases 2 Timothy 3:13-17

Context - Last days **3:1**

- Evil men - those against the Bible

- Imposters - those who say they believe but ignore the Word

- Bad to worse - deceiving and being deceived

Core - All Scripture is inspired of God

Literally "God-breathed" God through holy men.

2 Peter 1:20-21 *Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.*

Consequence - What is the product of scripture?

Able to give you wisdom (practical application of truth)

That leads to salvation through faith in Christ

In and of itself, the Bible does not save us - but it is only through the Bible that we can receive God's truth about Jesus, and put faith in Him.

Contract - What is the purpose of Scripture?

Profitable for - serviceable, advantageous in

1. Doctrine - instruction in truth, learning

2. Reproof - correction, rebuke, censure, chastisement

3. Correction - training, instruction to bring us back

4. Training in Righteousness - Making us acceptable to God

Completion - What is the end God had in mind?

1. That we may be complete - adequate

2. That we may be equipped to do his deeds.

Result of this doctrine in our lives

1. It assures us that God loves us and wants us to know Him.

2. It gives us a standard by which we can measure "religion" and religious traditions. - This is where sola scriptura applies. Traditions that are based on, and in agreement with, God's Word can be maintained. Traditions that are not based on, and/or disagree with, God's Word must be rejected.

3. It draws us to the Lord knowing the Biblical revelation in it's:
Sufficiency - it contains all that is necessary for faith and life
Authority - it is the final authority since only the Bible is infallible
Clarity - not everything but all the essential teachings of God