

Course Outline

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Sola Scriptura



Scripture Alone



What is: Sola Scriptura or Scripture Alone

• The Scriptures are our ultimate and trustworthy authority for faith and practice. This doesn't mean that the Bible is the only place where truth is found, but it does mean that everything else we learn about God and his world, and all other authorities, should be interpreted in light of Scripture. The Bible gives us everything we need to know about God and live a life honoring to him (2 Timothy 3:17).

• Every word of the 66 books of the Bible is inspired by God's Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit also helps us to understand and obey Scripture.

WHY A NEED FOR A REFORMATION



The Basic Error:

Roman Catholic Misinterpretation:

2 Peter 1:20 - knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.

- They believed that v20 meant that only the RCC was able to interpret the Scriptures
- They were the only Authority when it comes to the interpretation of God's Word



Magisterium

Is the Catholic church's authority or office to give authentic interpretation of the Word of God, "whether in its written form or in the form of Tradition.

According to the 1992 Catechism of the Catholic Church, the task of interpretation is vested uniquely in the Pope and the bishops, (the Magisterium has a complex history of development.)

Scripture and Tradition "make up a single sacred deposit of the Word of God, which is entrusted to the Church," and the magisterium is not independent of this, since "all that it proposes for belief as being divinely revealed is derived from this single deposit of faith."

© Example would be: Gospel & Works





Pope Leo X order sale of church offices and Indulgences to raise money to rebuild St. Peters Basilica

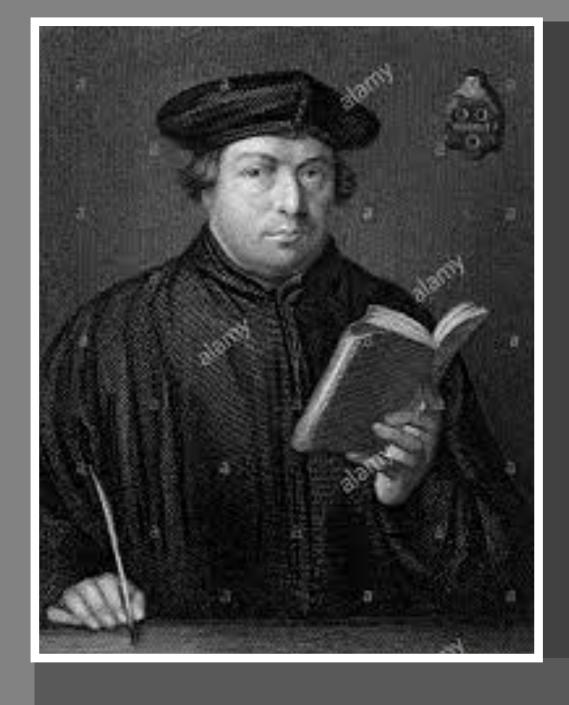
John Tetzel- sold indulgences in Germany

As a result of these abuses Martin Luther posts 95 thesesstatements to the church door In his town Wittenberg, attacking the RCC's policies



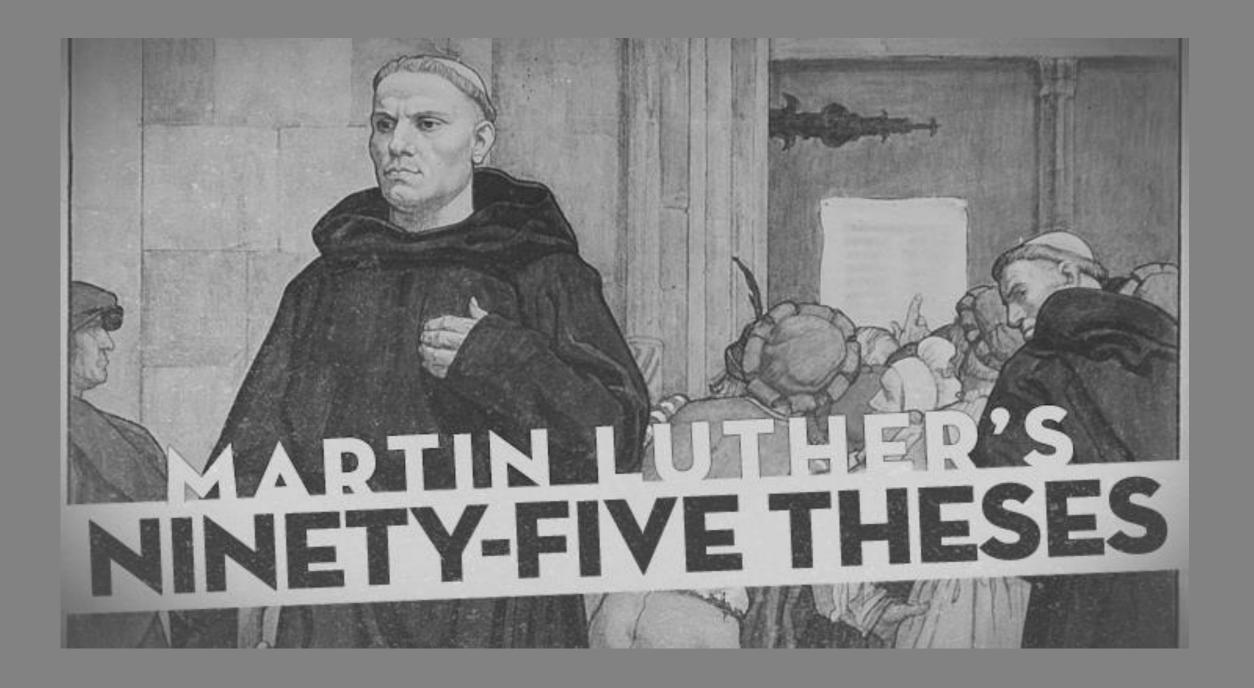


St. Peters Basilica



Night and day I pondered until I saw the connection between the justice of God and the statement that 'the just shall live by his faith.' Then I grasped that the justice of God is that righteousness by which through grace and sheer mercy God justifies us through faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise.

Martin Luther



Luther summonsed to Varms – To Recant

• In April 1521 the emperor, Charles V, convened a diet (An imperial assembly) – to settle the issue in a town called Worms, Germany. ("Varms.")

 At this assembly, Luther was told again to recant, to reject his theses that had created such division

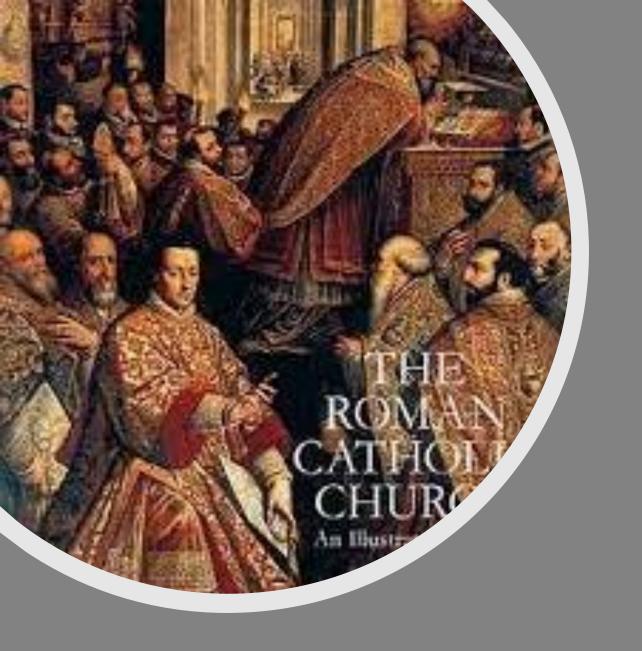


Here's how Luther responded:

"Unless I am convinced by the testimony of Scripture 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. My conscience is captive to the Word of God. ... Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen."





RCC Response

With those words Martin Luther was branded a heretic and declared an outlaw of the Roman Empire. But with those words he put forth the principle of Sola Scriptura – the notion that the Word of God is the decisive authority in a Christian's life.



Martin Luther

The true rule is this:

God's Word shall establish articles of faith, and no one else, not even an angel can do so.

1. What is: Sola Scriptura

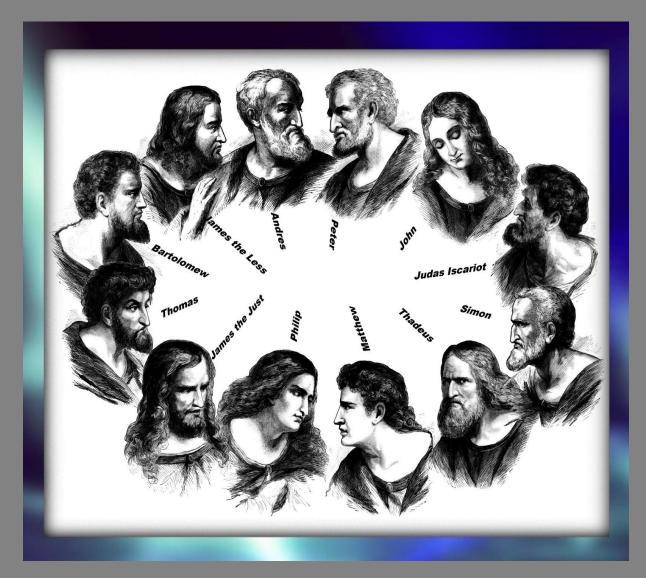
Sola scriptura is the Latin for: "by scripture alone". It is a theological doctrine held by some Protestant Christian denominations that posits the Christian scriptures as the sole infallible source of authority for Christian faith and practice.

It was a foundational doctrinal principle of the Protestant Reformation held by many of the Reformers, who taught that authentication of scripture is governed by the discernible excellence of the text, as well as the personal witness of the Holy Spirit to the heart of each man.

Apostles faced the same battles with Jewish Leaders

• Acts 5:17-33

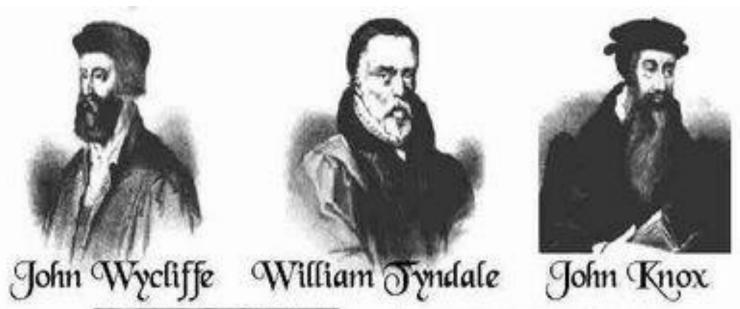
- I can't help but notice that Luther's response was very much like the response of the apostles, as we just heard in Acts 5.
- The political and religious leaders told them to stop, and they responded,
- "We must we must obey God rather than men" Acts 5:29
- Their response was the same as the RCC in <u>Act 5:33</u> When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them.



The Reformers

The Reformation was essentially a crisis over which authority should have primacy.

- 1. Rome claimed the church's authority lay with Scripture and tradition, Scripture and the pope, Scripture and church councils.
- 2. But the Reformers believed that the authority belonged to Scripture alone."



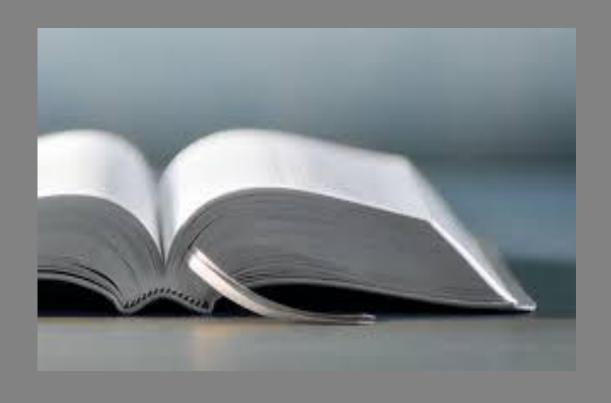






John Calvin

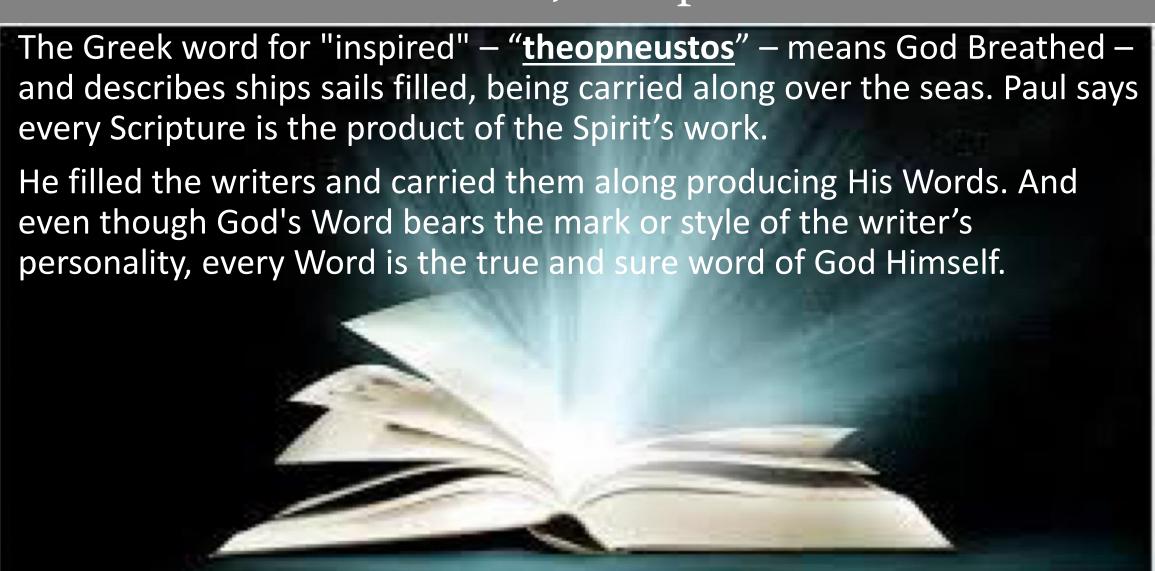
Doctrinal Basis



2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

God Breathed / inspired

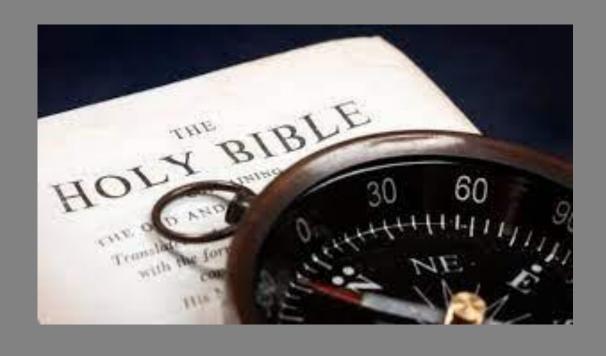


Peter's View



• <u>2 Peter 1:19-21</u> - And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2. Why is Sola Scriptura Important to our Faith?



- Sola Scriptura is important because it serves as the metric of our faith. We live in a culture that is fueled by feelings.
- We are often more interested in experiential knowledge and 'right feeling', than biblical truth and sound doctrine.
- Therefore, the concept of Sola Scriptura is important because God's Word serves to equip the saints and provide final say for all matters in life.

Warnings about Scripture

- <u>Deuteronomy 12:32</u> "Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall <u>not add to it or take from it</u>.
- <u>Proverbs 30:5-6</u> Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do <u>not add to his words</u>, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar.
- <u>Revelation 22:18-19</u> I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone <u>adds to them</u>, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, 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.

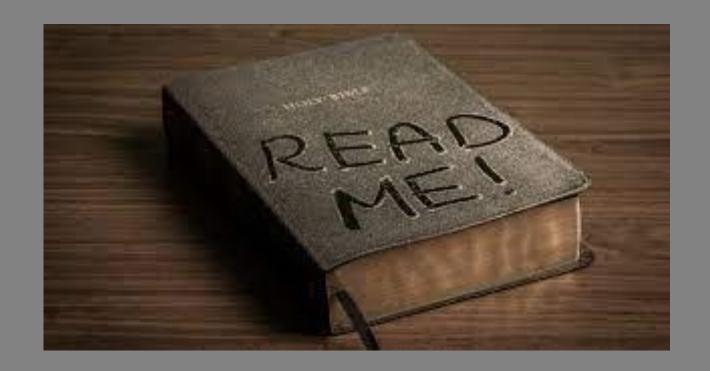
4 PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

The Psalmist View:

• Psalm 19:7-11 - The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Christians MUST get to know their Bible

• Mark 12:23-24 - In the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as wife." Jesus said to them, "Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God?



Berean Church:



• Acts 17:10-11 - The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.