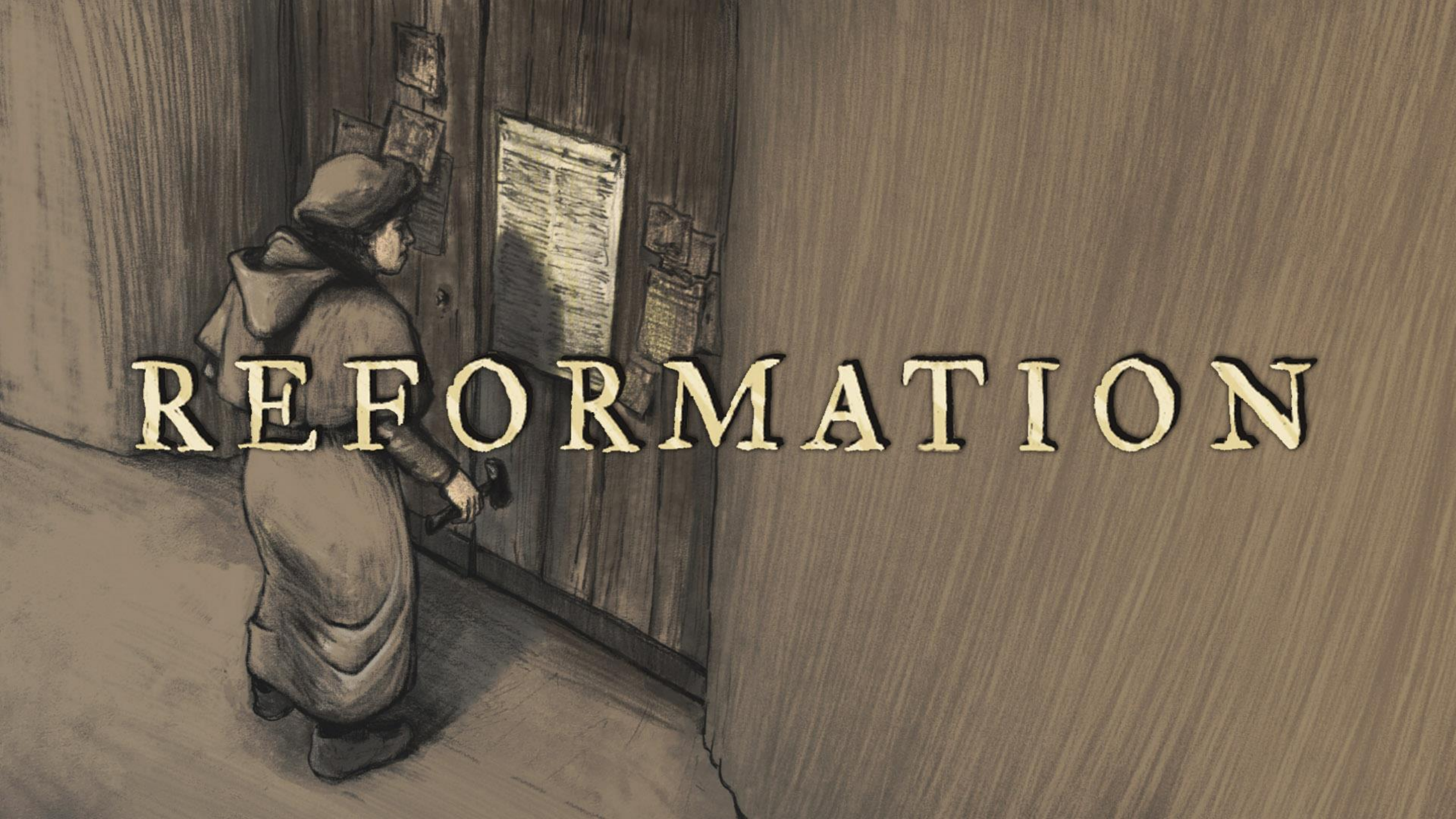

REFORMATION

Course Outline

- Lesson 1 – Introduction & Overview ✓
- Lesson 2 – Objections & Problems (Part 1) ✓
- Lesson 3 – Objections & Problems (Part 2) ✓
- Lesson 4 – Objections & Problems (Part 3) ✓
- Lesson 5 – Objections & Problems (Part 4) ✓

Course Outline

- Lesson 6 – Sola Scriptura ✓
- Lesson 7 – Sola Gratia ✓
- Lesson 8 – Sola Fida (Part 1)
- Lesson 9 – Sola Fida (Part 2)
- Lesson 10 – Solus Christus
- Lesson 11 – Soli Deo Gloria
- Lesson 12 – Conclusion & Application

WHAT IS FAITH?

© The Living Truth Fellowship

faith /fāTH/

Noun:

1. Complete trust or confidence in someone or something.
2. Strong belief in God or in the doctrines of a religion, based on spiritual apprehension rather than proof.

Synonyms: belief - trust - confidence - credence - credit

Hebrews 10:38-39 - but my **righteous one shall live by faith**, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Bible Versions

Amplified: NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses]. (Amplified Bible - Lockman)

Jerusalem Bible: Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen.

KJV: Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

NLT: What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see. (NLT - Tyndale House)

Phillips: Now faith means putting our full confidence in the things we hope for, it means being certain of things we cannot see. (Phillips: Touchstone)

Wuest: Now faith is the title deed of things hoped for, the proof of things which are not being seen.

Young's Literal: And faith is of things hoped for a confidence, of matters not seen a conviction,

FAITH

Hebrews 11:1 - *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

This definition of faith contains two aspects: intellectual assent and trust.

Intellectual assent is believing something to be true.
Trust is actually relying on the fact that the something is true.

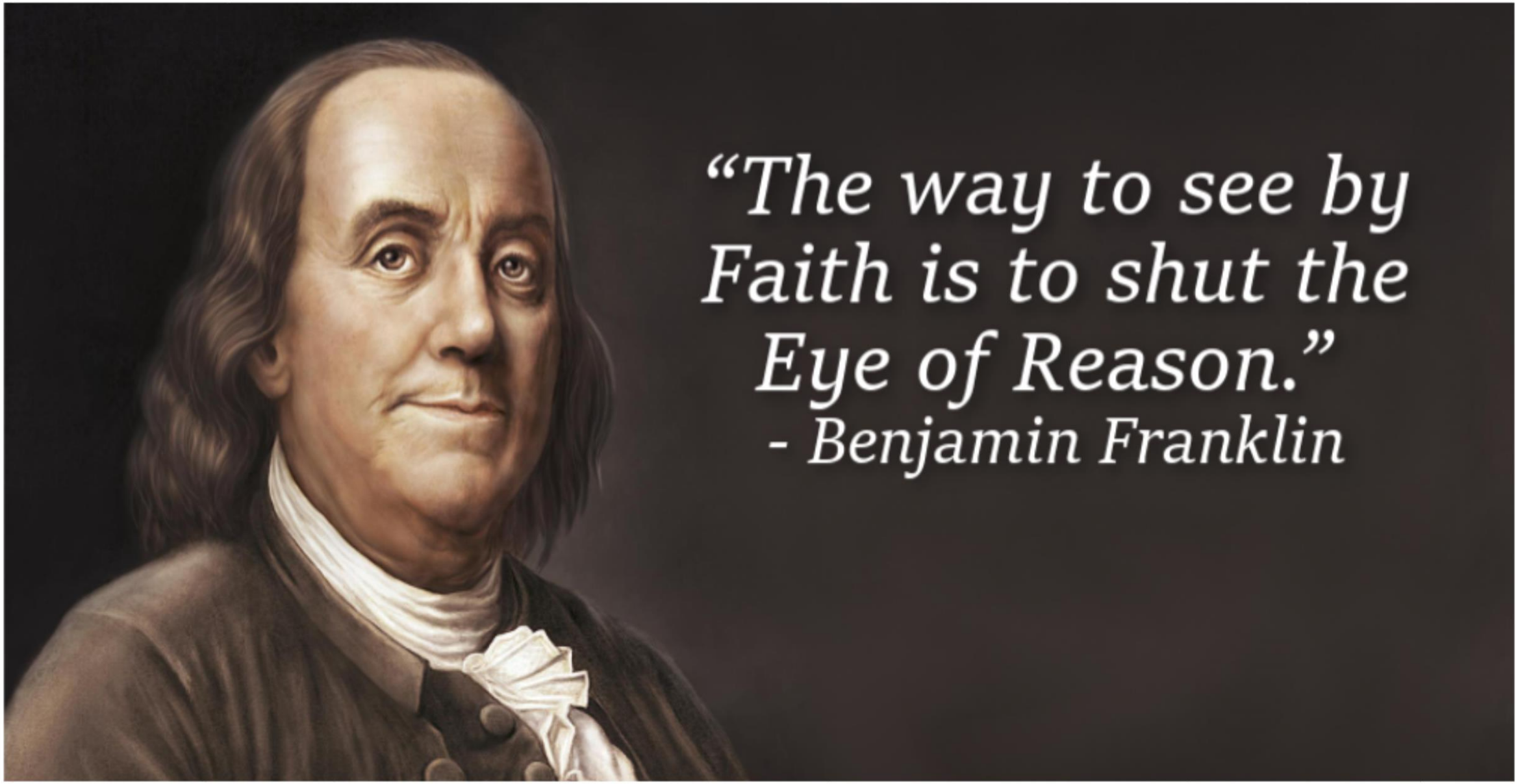
A chair is often used to help illustrate this. Intellectual assent is recognizing that a chair is a chair and agreeing that it is designed to support a person who sits on it. Trust is actually sitting in the chair.

Without faith, we cannot be saved – (Heb 11:6)

FAITH

Hebrews 11:1 - *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

True biblical faith is not an emotional wishful thinking but rather it is an inner conviction based on the assurance of God's Word for whatever happens in the future


"The way to see by
Faith is to shut the
Eye of Reason."
- Benjamin Franklin

Comparing Scripture with Scripture

- **Romans 8:24-25** - For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

- **2 Corinthians 4:17-18** - For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

J OSWALD SAUNDERS

Faith enables the believing soul to treat the future as present and the invisible as seen.

WHY IS
SOLA FIDE
IMPORTANT?
gotQuestions?org

- **Sola Fide** is the Latin for **Faith Alone**, and is a Christian Theological Doctrine commonly held to distinguish the Reformed and the Lutheran understanding of Protestantism, among others, **from** the Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox churches

- The doctrine asserts that it is on the basis of faith that believers are made right of their transgressions of the law of God rather than on the basis of **good works** which they have done.

- This forgiveness is known as "**justification by faith**". In classical Lutheran and Reformed theologies, good works are seen to be evidence of faith, but the good works themselves do not determine salvation.

Works of the Law

The Roman Catholic Church see the exclusion of "works of the law" as only referring to works done for salvation under the Mosaic law, versus works of faith which are held as meritorious for salvation.

The crucial distinction between Roman Catholics and Protestants was that the latter saw the exclusive ground of justification as the imputed righteousness of Christ.

This was the one thing all Protestants held in common and the thing that distinguished them from Rome.

Between 1513 and 1516, Luther lectured on the Psalms and Romans. It is clear from these texts that he was beginning to think differently about how the individual sinner finds forgiveness from God.

Only after some years of biblical study did Luther arrive at a more fully formed distinctive doctrine of justification by faith alone.

Martin Luther, stated that, "Works are necessary for salvation but they do not cause salvation; for faith alone gives life."

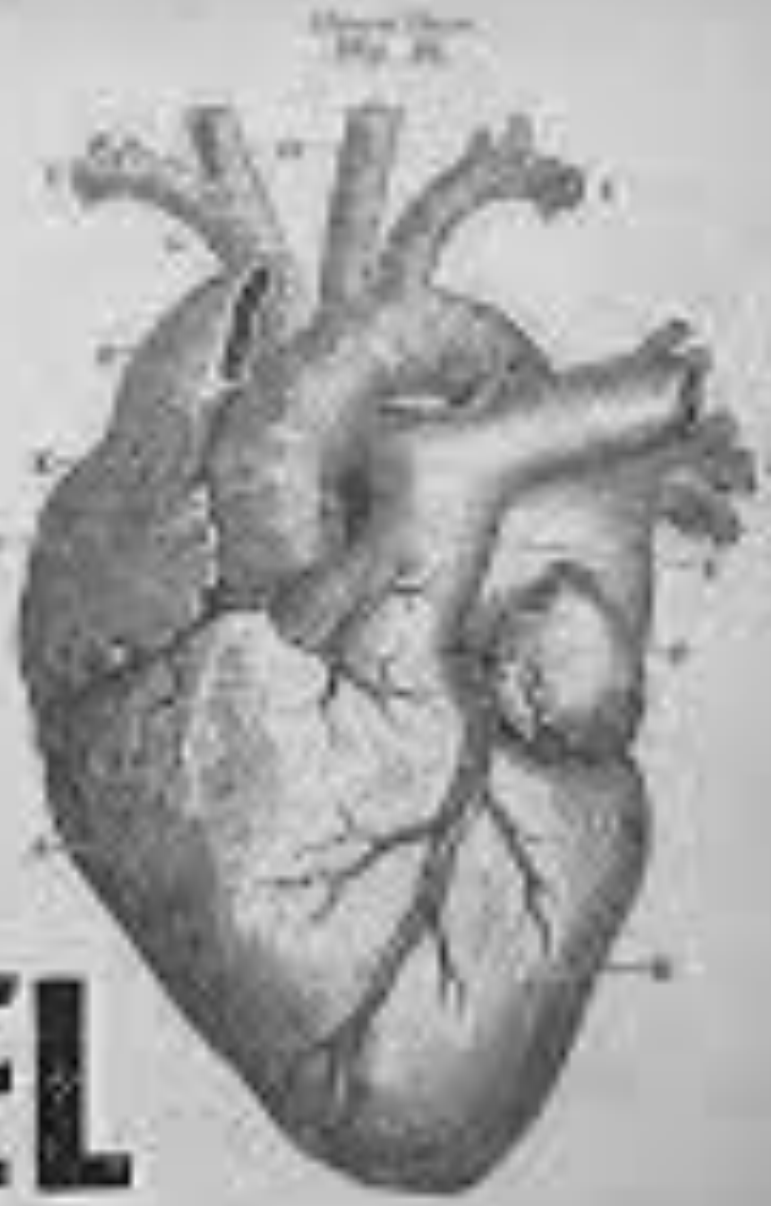
MARTIN LUTHER

R.C. SPROUL

If you don't have
Justification by Faith Alone,
you don't have
the gospel.

FAITH

THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL



The Attack of the Gospel in the Galatian Churches

Galatians 1:6-7 - I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

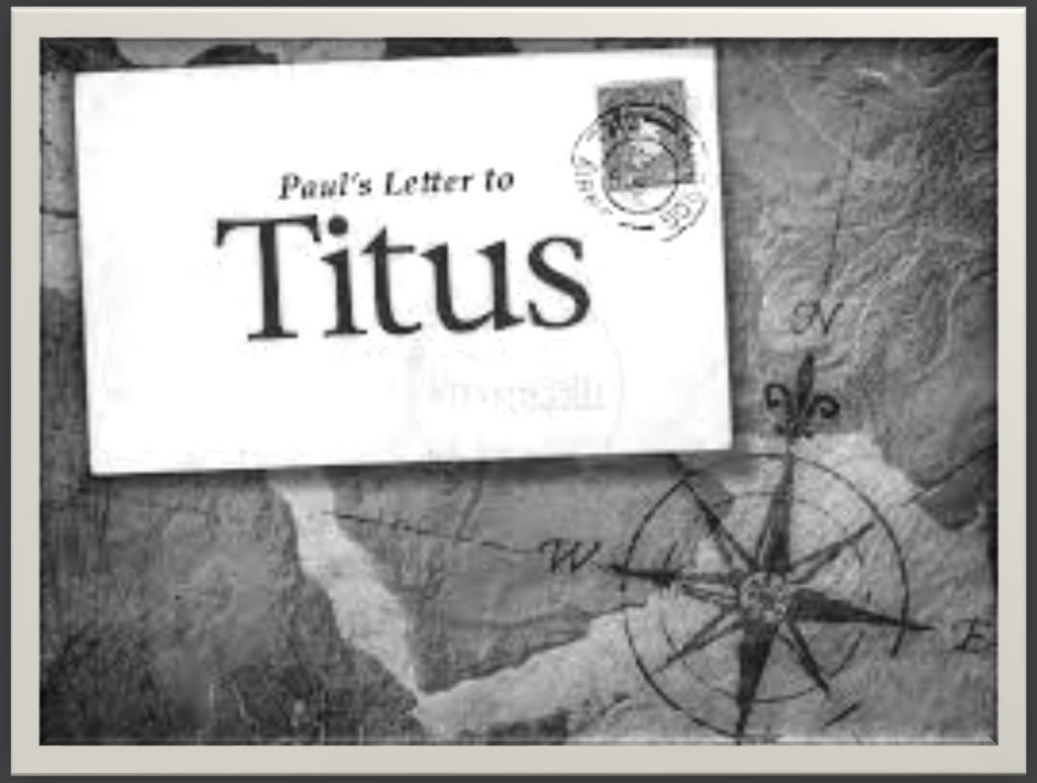
Galatians 2:15-16

We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is ***not justified by works of the law*** **but** ***through faith in Jesus Christ***, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order ***to be justified by faith in Christ*** **and** ***not by works of the law***, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

Galatians 3:11

Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "***The righteous shall live by faith.***"

Titus 3:4-7



But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, **he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness**, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Habakkuk placed this central hinge in his prophetic book when he wrote:

Habakkuk 2:4

"Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the **righteous shall live by his faith.**

Romans 1:17

For in it the righteousness
of God is revealed from
faith for faith,
as it is written,
"The righteous shall live
by faith."

START
BY.....FAITH
CONTINUE
BY....FAITH

APOSTLE PAUL

PAUL

The JUST shall live by FAITH

HABAKKUK

The doctrine of justification by faith alone is the article upon which the church stands or falls.

If we lose this, we lose Christianity

Martin Luther

Every week I preach the Doctrine of <u>Justification by Faith</u> Alone to my people, because every week they forget it.

Martin Luther

HOW DOES ONE GET OR RECEIVE FAITH

Ephesians 2:8

"...IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD"

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; ***it is the gift of God,***

What Proof do we have?

- **Galatians 3:22** - But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be ***given to those*** who believe.

- **Romans 4:4-5** - Now to the one who works, his wages are ***not counted as a gift but as his due***. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,

What Proof do we have?

- **Romans 3:21-24** - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are **justified by his grace as a gift,** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

- **Romans 5:15-17** - But the **free gift** is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and **the free gift** by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And **the free gift** is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, **but the free gift** following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those **who receive** the abundance of grace and **the free gift of righteousness** reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Practical Application:

- **2 Corinthians 5:7** - for we walk by faith, not by sight.

- **2 Corinthians 4:17-18** - For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

R.C. SPROUL

It’s good to remember believers who explored theology not merely as an academic exercise but as a life-and-death endeavor. It’s good for us to pause and remember the doctrines for which our forebears in the faith died. And it’s good to ask if these are the doctrines for which we are living.

Part 2 …

FAITH MORE FULLY DEFINED

FAIT
H
IMPUTATION
RIGHTEOUSNESS
JUSTIFICATION
RECONCILIATION
SANCTIFICATION
GLORIFICATION

IMPUTATION

In statistics, imputation is the process of replacing missing data with substituted values.

In Theology, imputation is the action or process of ascribing righteousness, guilt, etc. to someone by virtue of a similar quality in another.

Imputed, infused and imparted righteousness. ... Imputed righteousness is the righteousness of Jesus credited to the Christian, enabling the Christian to be justified. Double imputation refers to the imputation of believers' sin to Christ and the imputation of Christ's righteousness to believers.

3 Aspects of Imputation that was necessary for faith

#1 Imputation:

Due to the disobedience of Adam & Eve – sin was imputed (Transferred / infused) to every person born in the human race.

Romans 5:12 - *Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—*

APPLICATION

Romans 11:6 - But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

The Differences

Augustine understood from his own conversion experience that humanity is in bondage to sin. When Augustine read Romans and Galatians he understood that mankind was in such slavery as to be spiritually dead and in complete subservience to original and actual sins. The problem was so severe, according to Augustine, that only God Himself could intervene.

Pelagius, on the other hand, was more concerned with antinomianism and lawlessness because his observations in Britain were that many Christians were using grace as an excuse and an opportunity for sin. Pelagius therefore emphasized man's ability to choose by free will between doing good and doing evil. The problem with Pelagius, however, is that he went so far in the direction of human freedom that he denied original sin and the depravity of the human race.

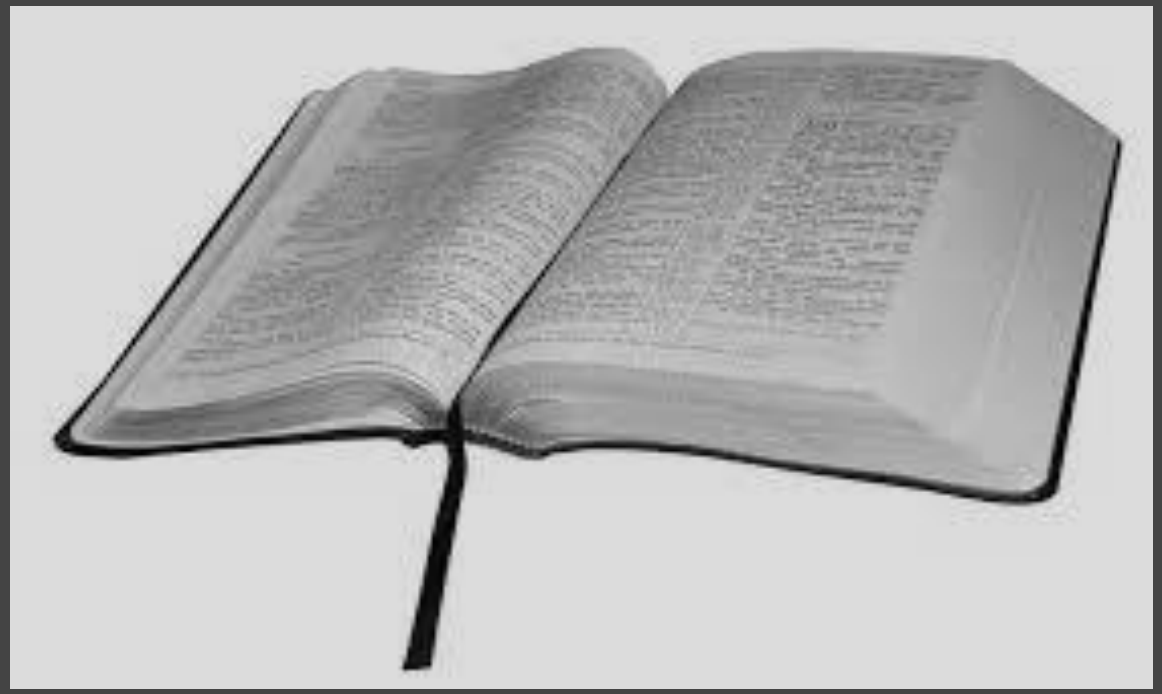
- Wretched Sailor with a wicked mouth that made our sailors blush
- God saved him – Became an Anglican Clergy
- Author of Hymn: AMAZING GRACE:

JOHN NEWTON

1725 – 1807

DEFINED

Grace Defined



BIBLE

If you open your Bible and we look up all occurrences of grace in the Bible.

You will find that there are 131 uses of grace in the ESV — 124 in the New Testament, 86 of which are from the apostle Paul, which means two-thirds of all the uses of the word grace in the Bible are in one author: Paul.

No wonder he's called "The Apostle of Grace."

Grace Defined

- Modern, secular definitions of grace relate to a person's "elegance or beauty of form, manner, motion, or action; or a pleasing or attractive quality or endowment.“

- 2 Common Christian Definitions that Describe: Grace –

  - Undeserved Gift - “God’s benevolence on the undeserving”
  - Unmerited Favor - “God’s favor toward the unworthy”

What others say:

- **John Stott** - “Grace is love that cares and stoops and rescues.”
- **Jerry Bridges** - “Grace is God reaching downward to people who are in rebellion against Him.”
- **B.B. Warfield** - “Grace is free sovereign favor to the ill-deserving.”

Grace Defined

- **2 Corinthians 9:8** - “God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.” Now, that seems to picture grace as a power or an influence for obedience.

- **2 Corinthians 12:9** - Jesus says to Paul, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

- **1 Corinthians 15:10** - By the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder [that was the effect of grace] than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.”

Grace Defined

- We need to broaden our scope in the understanding of the word: **GRACE** - as the Bible uses the term in these three verses: (they're not the only ones):
- It appears that the word **grace** in Paul's use not only refers to God's character trait or disposition or inclination to treat people better than we deserve -
- But the word **grace** also refers to the action or the power or the influence or the force of this disposition, which produces real, practical outcomes in people's lives,
  - like being sufficient for good deeds or
  - enduring the thorn in the flesh or
  - working harder than everybody else, which Paul says about his own apostolic work."

Grace Defined

V5 - even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

V7 - so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

V8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; *it is the gift of God*, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:5-9

Thy kindness is better than life
Ps. 63.3

Grace Defined

he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified **by his grace** we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:5-7

Practical Application

- We who believe so strongly in “Grace” and we who experienced Gods “Grace” so freely, Must….. Show that same “Grace” to others

→ **Hebrews 4:16** - Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

→ **Colossians 4:6** - Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

→ **1 Peter 4:10** - As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

→ **James 4:6** - But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

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James 4:6 - But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

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.

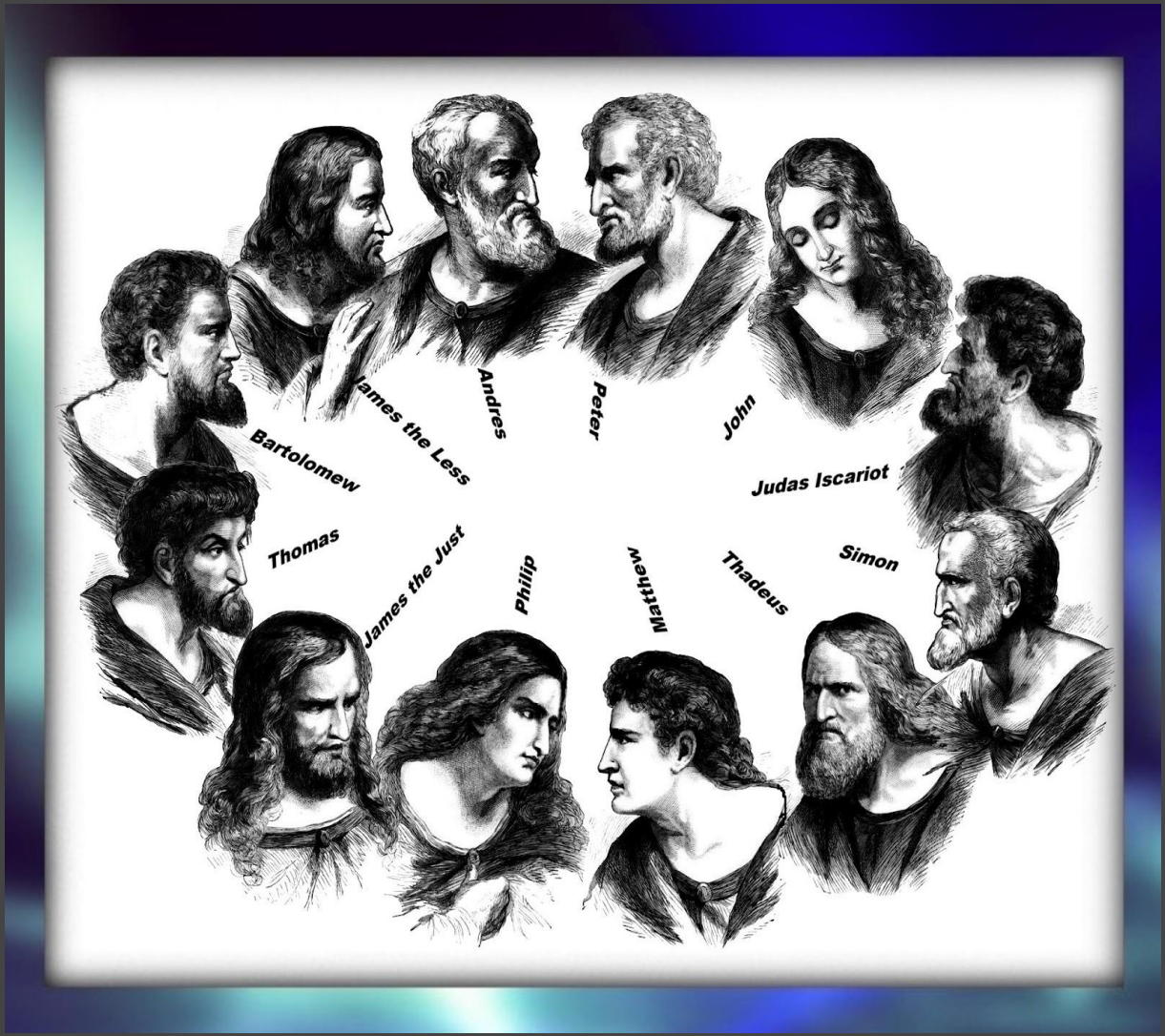
WHY A NEED FOR A REFORMATION

"SOLA GRATIA" GRACE ALONE

- God's grace alone is the only reason we are not still dead in our trespasses and sins, deceived by false thinking ("but for the grace of God …")
- God's grace is the sole source, not only of our eternal life, but of every breath we take and our life in general – we owe all to His grace alone
- We who believe so strongly in grace must show that same grace to others

Apostles faced the same battles with Jewish Leaders

- **<u>Acts 5:17-33</u>**
- 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"* - **<u>Acts 5:29</u>**
- 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.*



John Wycliffe

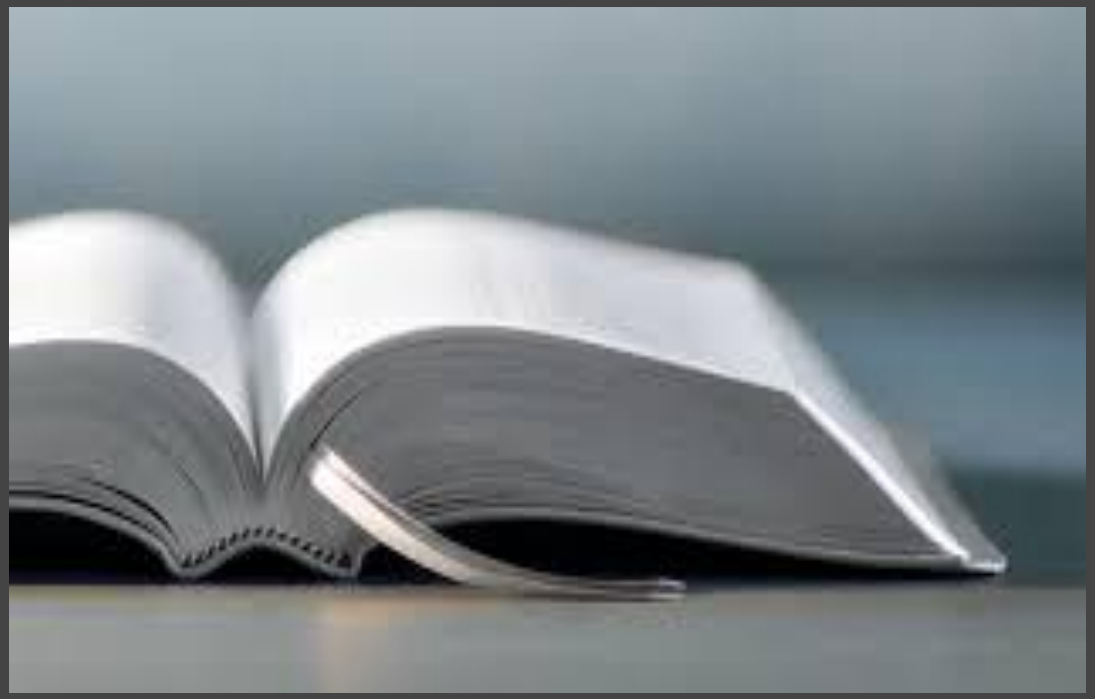
William Tyndale

John Knox

Martin Luther

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

The Greek word for "inspired" – "**theopneustos**" – means God Breathed – and describes ships sails filled, being carried along over the seas. Paul says every Scripture is the product of the Spirit's work.

He filled the writers and carried them along producing His Words. And even though God's Word bears the mark or style of the writer's personality, every Word is the true and sure word of God Himself.

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

- **Deuteronomy 12:32** - “Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it.

- **Proverbs 30:5-6** - Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar.

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

- **<u>Acts 17:10-11</u>** - 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; <u>they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so</u>.