

Introduction

- The idea that the Bible should be the primary authority for the life and faith of a Christian did not originate with the Reformers.

"...who does not know that...Scripture, both the Old and New Testament, is contained within its own established limits, and that it is to be preferred to all later letters of bishops...[for these] which have been written or are being written, since the closing of the canon, may be refuted if there be anything in them which by chance deviates from the truth." —Augustine of Hippo (4th Century)

"Any truth that the authority of the Scriptures does not confirm is suspect in my eyes." — Hugh of St. Victor (12th Century)

***Sola Scriptura* is often referred to as the formal principle of the Reformation.**

Understanding Sola Scriptura

Sola Scriptura can be defined as the belief that the Bible is the chief, supreme, and final _____ for the Church because it is God's inspired, inerrant, and complete revelation.

- This view draws an intentional contrast with the Roman Catholic view which came to be known as the "two source theory" and which was affirmed at the Council of Trent (1546):

"All saving truths and rules of conduct...are contained in the written books and in the unwritten traditions, received from the mouth of Christ Himself or from the apostles themselves."

The Theological Basis:

1. Inspiration →

"...inspiration [is] a divine act which creates an identity between a divine word and a human word." —John Frame

2. Inerrancy →

"Scripture is inerrant because the personal Word of God cannot be anything other than true." —John Frame

The Attributes of Scripture

Just as God Himself possesses certain attributes, so His Word has certain essential characteristics.

1. _____: (2 Pet. 1:3)

"The sacred and divinely inspired Scriptures are sufficient for the exposition of the truth." - Athanasius of Alexandria

2. _____: (Acts 2:38-39)

"All things in Scripture are not alike plain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all: yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed, and observed for salvation, are so clearly propounded, and opened in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the learned, but the unlearned...may attain unto a sufficient understanding of them." —The Westminster Confession of Faith, 1.7

3. _____: (Isa. 55:11)

"Divine authorship is the ultimate reason why Scripture is authoritative. Its authority is absolute because God's authority is absolute." —John Frame

4. _____: (Rom. 10:17)

"All truth may be God's truth, but saving truth is revealed truth." —Kevin DeYoung

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 complete, equipped for every good work.

Important Observations

- The importance of _____ authorities is affirmed (3:14)
- The Scriptures are referred to as the “_____” writings. (3:15a)
 - “sacred”—*ἱερός (hieros)* — (adj.) Pertaining to being of transcendent purity, holy. The term is used in reference to the things belonging to the temple.
 - ⇒ Like the temple, the Scriptures are set apart for the people of God so that they might know God and _____ to Him properly.
- Scripture alone makes it possible for us to be _____. (3:15b)
 - How? 1. They show us who we really are.
 - 2. They reveal Christ to us.
 - 3. They call us to respond in faith to the person and work of Christ.
- The divine _____ of Scripture is declared. (3:16a)
 - “inspired” or “breathed out”—*θεόπνευστος (theopneustos)*
 - ⇒ Although the Scriptures come to us by means of human authors, their true author is God Himself.
- The _____ power of Scripture is described (3:16b)
 - “teaching” →
 - “reproof” →
 - “correction” →
 - “training in righteousness” →
- The intended purpose of Scripture’s effective power is that believers would be _____. (3:17)
 - “complete”—*ἄρτιος (artios)* —(adj.) Fitted, complete, adequate, having reference apparently to special aptitude for given uses.
 - ⇒ Scripture alone makes us ready for _____ in the plans and purposes of God.