



“The Reformation / A Celebration of Historical Perseverance”

5 Solas wk. 1 – Sola Scriptura
By Pastor Jody May 10/31/2021

2 Timothy 3:16-17

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.

2 Peter 1:20-21

²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. ²¹ 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.

Hebrews 4:12-13 ESV

¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

[INTRO]

During the weeks of November, we will be revisiting the essential truths of the Protestant Reformation along with examining some of the main characters from this time. Through learning about these truths and founding fathers it is my hope that we all 1st gain a deeper insight into how the good Lord has preserved us over these many years since then through the incorporation of these truths

2nd I also want us to develop an appreciation of our theological roots so that in the future, for years to come, until the Lord’s return, we would do our part as a congregation to preserve the truths strengthening and sustaining the true church of God’s Kingdom.



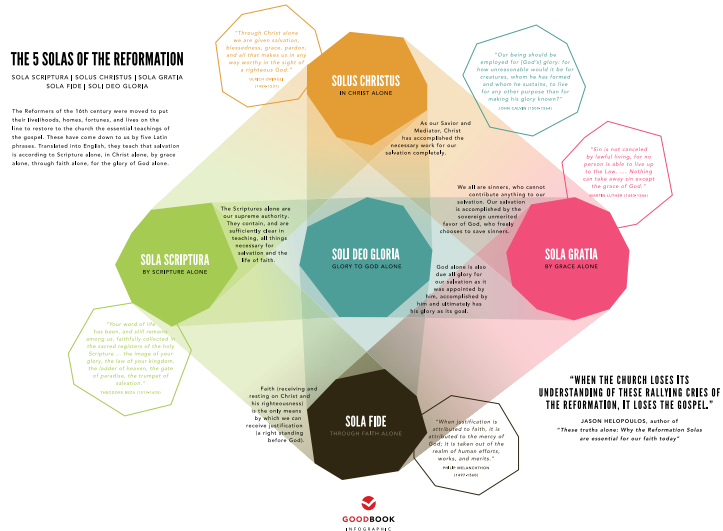
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What are the 5 Solas - The War Cry of the Reformation of 500 years ago.

Fathers - John Calvin (July 1509 - May 1564) - French, Huldrych Zwingli (January 1484 – October 1531) - Swiss, and of course Martin Luther (November 1483- February 18, 1546) - German. But there were so many more that you

most likely don't even know about! Over the next 31 days we are going to send you a different biography of a different Reformer every day, so that **you gain that deeper insight and appreciation** hopefully leading to your defense and support of our Protestant Traditions.



Our Focus – This ominous time started when Martin Luther fired that fatal shot on October 31, 1517 (504 years ago) by nailing on the door of “All Saints Church” in Wittenberg his 95 thesis and it was mailed to the Archbishop of Mainz. Luther protested by writing debate like questions where he took strong grievance against the practice of indulgences, people paying the church so that the priests would pray that their loved ones would move from purgatory into heaven. That all started with Johann Tetzel, a corrupt friar, when he tried to sell indulgences in Germany and Martin Luther was not having any of that!¹

The Danger -These were desperate times, where people were killed for going against any belief produced by the church. The church was the main power behind all the thrones in Europe and the pope was more corrupt than the Monarchs. The church feared losing control because it would mean losing the blessing of God in their lives = that equated to money and power.

¹ <https://www.history.com/topics/reformation/martin-luther-and-the-95-theses>



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The fight to Reform the church, to challenge tradition, to challenge the idea that the pope and the church trumps the authority of God and ancient Creeds in all things **launched the early reformers into a quest.**

The quest for the True Church! One of the things that the 5 Solas accomplishes is helping determine whether one is a member of the ‘real church’ or what theologians like to call ‘the invisible church’.

So why do we need to study this now? Because, it is hard to find a church that adheres to the 5 Solas! Other churches that don’t even know what it means to be protestant now outnumber true Reformed churches.

In an article called I read just this past week in **RELEVANT** magazine, “**Have We Made the Bible Into an Idol?**” Pastor John Pavlovitz makes the argument that some (conservative) Christians put too much stock into what the Bible says and not enough into the other ways that God may be revealing Himself to you.²

Mind you that He is inferring by the title that you may be sinning and in error if you do not believe the way he does. “The question we need to ask ourselves as **modern (liberal/woke)** believers, is whether or not we really trust God to speak clearly and directly to someone, independently of the Bible. We know of course, that God *can* and *does* communicate through Scripture, but must that be the only method He employs?” ... Wow, that sounds really spiritual, but I wonder if Pastor Pavlovitz understands how dangerous that is. The reality is I can stand up to that and say, “Well Pav., I think God is telling me something totally different!” Then TRUTH becomes SUBJECTIVE!

He goes on to say, “The only religious worldview that makes the Bible the last and only word, is that of a God who is no longer living.” That is the philosophical argument to say if you truly believe that God’s Word is the only way He speaks to us, then you are of the old world, and your religion is dead.

This is **Liberal theology**, it is alive and well and growing in our world, and it **will rip TRUTH** from our faith by claiming **Christianity is relative**, you are saved by what you determine to be the truth, which can come from outside the Bible. The

² <https://www.relevantmagazine.com/faith/have-we-made-bible-idol-0/>



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danger in that is no one knows what is needed for Salvation, there is no surety in it.

[OUR CHALLENGE]

We need to understand that being a 5 Sola reformed church of today requires us to inherit the steel, to grow a spine, that is united, that rises to a challenge, and dare I say even goes looking for a fight, like our forefathers. Because not only do we find ourselves against the world that is intolerant of our beliefs, but we have people that call themselves Christians that also believe we are way too intolerant! **Could we need another such Reformation Again? Mayhap we find ourselves on the eve of picking an argument?**

What were the reformers reacting against in which they had to declare SOLA SCRIPTURA!?

The traditions of that day were that the doctrine of the early church **gave preference** to Pope/Church’s reasoning of traditions of past interpretations, the experience of an individual, and the ability to reason. **It kind of sounds a lot like some churches today (Pastor Pav), God can speak through people too therefore, accept without question the popular, spiritual, and educated beliefs of self-proclaimed God speakers.**

It was the same in Jesus’ day, Mat 20 and Luke 20, by who’s authority Jesus do you teach? (tradition and teaching). Jesus did not reference rabbinic teachers but referenced His Bible the OT. “It is said”...

The point that I want you to catch today is that in many modern “so-called” protestant churches the Bible is thought to be out of date and should never be given authority over oneself because it lacks validity and reliability. **Let us see what scripture says about that.... I want to point out three truths today from scripture and let it do that talking to you and let’s see if it is valid still for us today:**

MAIN POINT FOR THE DAY:



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- **All scripture has its' source in God alone and is the ultimate authority of your life... alone. – SOLA SCRIPTURA**

[TEXT]

1. All Scripture Derives from God.

2 Peter 1:16-21 ESV

¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” ¹⁸ we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. ²¹ 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.

Peter here is relating to His people the power of His Apostolic office; we saw the glorified Jesus. He goes on to share what they saw. You may know this story from **(Matthew 17:1–8, Mark 9:2–8, Luke 9:28–36)** about the **transfiguration of Jesus**. He was visited by Moses and Elijah Himself and Peter was overcome with the majesty of the moment, to the point that he never wanted to leave it, he wanted to build little tabernacles there to worship those three glorified beings. Then Peter was corrected and refocused by a voice coming out of nowhere, “This is my Son, listen to Him.”

Then Peter makes this bodacious statement, “we” that means him and the church have the prophetic word “the Bible” that is more fully confirmed; βέβαιος (*bebaios*); gauranteed, reliable, trustworthy, dependable – to which we would do well to pay attention to. Peter is like look don’t just take my Word for it, as a matter of fact you need to trust the written Word more than me! **God’s written Word you are to take over a person’s testimony every time!**



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Here’s what Peter knows, everything the church read back then, in the OT, if they are indeed saved, will show that all the OT points to and culminates in Jesus. This verse (2 Pet.) also shows the corruption of the church in Martin Luther’s day. The only way you heard the Bible was to go to Mass, and the only ones that could read it were the clergy for it was written in Latin. The principle lived by the Catholic church was exactly the opposite, “Take my word for it, here’s what you need for Salvation, pay your indulgences, live in fear of losing the grace of the church, and obey your govt. authorities without question.” It is why men like Tyndale who attempted to write out the OT so lay people could read it and John Huss who attempted reform before Luther were both burnt at the stake!

It is in God’s Word alone, not in men, that you can find the power of Salvation. AND that’s why people died for the right to be governed by God’s Word alone, not just through martyrdom but through a thirty-year war between the Protestants and the Catholics (March 1562 – April 1598).

Why is the Bible so dangerous to those in power, those that don’t want you to read it and experience it for yourself? Because Peter teaches us that nothing no prophecy, nothing written in the Bible was ever produced by the will of man, but that **men only wrote what the HS wanted them to write**. That means you should trust it above all human voices in this world, even your king/government!

Trust is the problem for us. Will you trust that the Bible has the answers you are lacking in life, or will you trust man? This brings us to our second point this morning for you may have a problem believing that your answers can be found in God’s Word even though you get it, that the Bible is derived from God alone.

2. All Scripture is Empowered by God.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV

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.

All scripture is breathed out/ *theosneustos* “**inspired**” by God / the source is God. That is created in His mind, it was composed by His will, it wasn’t just thought up



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in reaction to man’s sin and rebellion but before time it was already composed by an all-knowing God that is everywhere all at one time.

EG. - Some of you have gotten into the new **DUNE** movie. The character in that movie Paul Atreides, is a representation of the Messiah (**Kwisatz Haderach**). Spoiler alert here everyone, but in the story, what makes Paul this special being and also terrifying is that he gains the ability to be omniscient, he sees the past and knows how everything will play out. Now as mind boggling as that is, our God does not only know how all things will pan out, He is the one orchestrating all things to go His way for He not only knows, but He’s at every point in history, and He has the power to control all physical laws.

So let me go back to why we can trust God’s Word, it is breathed out by God so it is the ultimate revelation, divinely given at the time when He wanted it, controlled exactly how He wanted to give it, to perform the purposes He called it to, and therefore it becomes the force that moves all of history until God himself, in the 2nd person of the trinity, Jesus THE MESSIAH, returns again. ([Eph. 1:10](#))

The words\ were given to His prophets mixed with the heart of man under His sovereignty to put on paper exactly what He wanted it to say. Yes, that came through, the sinful taint of man, so God used the bent of the man to say what He wanted it to say meaning that it is not corrupted in any way. **Illustration of chocolate bread – God glorifies Himself the best when He takes what is worst in us and produces what people crave the most!**

Because God is the originator of scripture that makes it not only essential but also all you need to know to live for Him.

¹⁶ All Scripture is **breathed out** by God and **profitable** for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

2 Tim says it is profitable, that **means useful, value, advantageous**, for teaching, reproof, correction and training. Notice those are all 4 actions usually require interaction of church folk with one another.

¹⁷ that the man of God may be **complete**, equipped for every good work.



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Then while correcting you it is **completing you**. There was this corny line in Jerry McGwire that you ladies loved, “*you complete me*”. Scripture says that **God’s Word completes you**, you can be Holy (Holy) without a significant other (1 Cor. 7) and it is through God’s Word that you have any ability to do a good Work. Without the Bible you are incapable of doing good for it is in the Bible that God tells you what is “good”.

So, all scripture is **derived** from God, and it is **empowered** by God, and here now is how God’s Word saves us, the blessing it is to His people.

3. All Scripture is used to Expose man and Reveal God.

Hebrews 4:12-13 ESV

¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, **piercing to the division of soul and of spirit**, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

The word of God accomplishes what no other authority can accomplish. **Scripture pierces to the division of soul and of spirit because** the HS is dedicated to the Word, He makes the Word come alive! That is why it does what no authority can do. **It gets inside of us!**

This is why preaching is so important, because the Word is proclaimed and the HS drills it in, because it gets to the heart of where your disbelief lies, because it is omniscient. All are naked and exposed. We can’t hide just as Adam found out in the Garden.

The only way any of us comes to Christ is that the Word goes only where it can go.

You see **Luther started in 1517** (504 years ago) this Reformation because the very first thing that happened to Him was that God revealed Himself in the scripture, the Pope didn’t tell Luther, tradition didn’t help Him, His experience as a professor and monk did Him no good, it was by Scripture Alone, inspired by God the HS, that got to Him. It exposed who he was and revealed who God was as well as a Holy and judging God He was gracious...



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Luther suffered fits of anxiety because he could not live with the Catholic Church doctrine, the doctrine of living by works was driving him mad!

Luther:

- Started moving towards the life of a lawyer, dad wanted security
- Scared into being a monk from a night ride in the woods
- Wore out his superiors, because he could not be free of guilt
- Luther had arguments with the devil, he would cause himself pain, and was hopelessly lost in his guilt

I KNOW THIS FEELING!

- Romans 1:17 changed everything for him, and the light of heaven shown upon him Romans 3 later explained it
 - **Romans 1:17 ESV**
¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”
- Luther was shown that he was living in Faith of God and therefore that would mean he would have to be righteous already!?
- The HS reached him through the words on the page and faith was ignited
- He started arguing with the church that scripture should always have the louder arguments in ecclesiology not the fathers, past popes, church councils, etc.!

[JESUS]

Luther suffered from the same Trust issues we have. He didn't Trust God to save him, he wanted to save himself and it was only when God let him get too tired to try anymore, and he became still, did **God call in a whisper**, “You are saved because I have given you this faith which means you are JUSTIFIED!”

What is your authority issue you are having with God today? Where are you having a problem either obeying God or just accepting that you are now a new person? Maybe like Luther you are plagued by feelings of guilt, you can never do enough. **YOU ARE ABOLUTELY RIGHT!** Luther lived in that torment and then God showed him that Jesus did do enough.



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Jesus followed scripture, Jesus surrendered to the authority of it, and listened to it when it told Him to go and die. You see He bent His will to the authority of the OT, He believed the prophets, He knew the words were inspired and authoritative, and He put Himself in subjection to them, and He died for the truth they revealed. By the obedience of a lamb that is led to a slaughter we were given His ability to obey through our Faith.

And so now we too like Jesus can cry “Abba Father!” I have been made whole! It propels us to be obedient. It propels us to be like Jesus as Paul states in Rom. 8:36 we too will desire to be like sheep lead to a slaughter. **It means we won’t shrink away from the call to come and die if it is so required.**

It propelled Luther, it propelled the Reformers, and **it will propel you too...**

It was noted after 1517 Luther took his disdain that was directed towards himself and put all his vigor/passion into the disdain of those that did not believe in the total authority of scripture. It was commented and recorded by one of his students – **“Where father Luther was, if there was no controversy, prior to his arrival, his arrival announced a controversy.”**

In 1519 during the Leipzig Disputation Luther said to John Eck: “As for the pope’s decretal on indulgences I say that neither the Church nor the pope can establish articles of faith. These must come from Scripture. For the sake of Scripture we should reject pope and councils.”

In 1521 he is brought up on formal charges for disrupting the empire, the pope announced that he is the great enemy of Christendom.

Luther, at the diet of worms, Charles the 5th presided (the Holy roman Emperor) Luther was asked are these your arguments? Luther, *“that’s what I wrote that’s what I believe because that’s what is true.”* Then because you asked me to answer without an argument, **“Here I stand solely on the Word of God, I can do no other.”**

Ten years later he translates the Bible into German and in 1529 we all inherit the name “Protestant” because our ancestors joined the protest against the church



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and we no longer recognize the ruling power of neither the Pope nor the holy roman emperor over our lives.

His bravado produced by faith, enlightened by finally a clear conscience, no guilt, no remorse, exaltation in freedom in Christ, spurred on his students. Their Faith was ignited through the scripture as well and they were the ones beheaded and set to torch. Their blood fueled the Reformation and because of their sacrifice we are seated here, not to hear a pre-written mass by the Vatican, but we hear the Truth in God’s own Word.

Later when Luther was asked about the success of the Reformation he replied.

Luther – “I preached the Word and I slept and while I slept God did it by His Word.”

Sola Scriptura is what delivers the authority of God’s Son into our lives so we must harken to His words and believe in Him. And when we do so we will find that God is still establishing and preserving the church.

- **All scripture has its’ source in God alone and is the ultimate authority of your life... alone. – SOLA SCRIPTURA**

[CHALLENGE]

Today some of you may have problems accepting the Word of God, what’s in it for you were under the delusion it was contrived solely by man. But today, answer the call to believe and obey what you find in it. It was given by God Himself (according to 2 Pet. & 2 Tim.) which requires you to adhere your lives to it and by doing so you will find eternal life.

Today some of you have tried to find completeness in other things outside God’s church. Your life may have way too many idols in it right now. There are way too many things that keep you distracted from God’s Word, there are way too many teachings of the world you have accepted because it gives you what you want, when in reality only God’s Word completes you for it is profitable for all areas of your life (2 Tim.). Turn back to the God of Scripture and put your trust in Him for only then can you truly find what you need.



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Today some of you have been exposed to the truth in scripture, your sin has been shown and God has revealed that you can **only be saved by faith in Him**, not your works. Confess today to God where truth has been shown and by faith accept His forgiveness, and then live differently this week to celebrate Him.

Perhaps today is your first day understanding what scripture tells us in Romans **10:13 ESV:**

For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Today you can be saved by calling on Jesus to rescue you from this world and its’ traps and your sin, believe by Faith and in the authority of Scripture and take your place in His family.

[PRAYER]

[COMMUNION]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that has supplied us with His Holy Word that was divinely inspired by Him.

Go in the name of the Son, that obeyed it unwaveringly so we might be free from the wrath of God.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, that opens our eyes to understand what we find in scripture and propels us to share the good news with others.