



Reformation Sunday!
The Importance of Being a Sola Scripture Church
By Pastor Jody May 10/26/2025

[CALL TO HEAR]

Hebrews 4:12-13 ESV

¹²For 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. ¹³And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

2 Peter 1:20-21

²⁰knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹For 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 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

**Pastor – "People of God, this is the Word of God."
People – "Thanks be to God."**

Pray

Illustration

In a [recent debate between Andy Stanley and Jeff Durbin](#) an important discussion took place which basically summarized the position between progressive liberal churches and more conservative protestant ones.

Andy presents the idea that the *"OT yes indeed is at the front of the Bible, but it is at the back of their particular apologetic method. We take the OT seriously*



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because Jesus took the OT seriously, and we take Jesus seriously because of the resurrection.” Meaning because of the over 500 eyewitness accounts of a resurrected Jesus in the NT ([1 Cor 15:6](#)) that is why you believe in Christ. While Jeff Durbin explained that the only reason, we even entertain the idea that a man came back from the dead is that because the OT, God’s Word, said one would come who would conquer death ([Psalm 16:10; Hos 6:2](#)). Meaning you believe Jesus rose from the dead because God said He would, and any visual confirmation is just secondary notifications.

You see, while you could build your apologetics on the Bible based on the perception of people who saw Jesus that also derails or removes the significance of God’s Word. if you only believe in Jesus because of historical data not divinely inspired scripture, then it lessens/removes the importance of the OT because Jesus for sure did not mention all of it in His teachings. That means you can use the argument, that what Jesus did NOT talk about, He did not view as important, so we don’t talk about it.

How convenient for people who want to promote alternative lifestyles, social justice, and abortion. OR you believe in the authority of God’s Word, and the fact that Jesus believed in it, and showed it by living in submission to it, to ensure His raising from the dead, because it was the fulfillment of the law. That shows that the whole of the OT is important, not just the parts you like.

You see here’s the problem if there is no authority in God’s Word, then we have no reformation, and if we have no reformation, we have no Andy Stanley. He owes his existence to the Doctrine of *Sola Scriptura*, the same doctrine that he wants to do away with, so he can create a church and religion of his own liking. That is the same problem that Martin Luther had over 500 years ago (508 to be exact), where the Catholic church wanted to ignore how we are saved and instead wanted to control it, giving power over God’s Word with their doctrine of the Magisterium (authority from the pope and cardinals).

Family I want to talk about this today with you, to celebrate the doctrine of *Sola Scriptura*, for without it there is no doctrine proper, there is no Gospel power, there is no church discipline, there is no church. But when we remind ourselves of its truth there will be rightful and sensical doctrine, there will be



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a Gospel that has power to call sinners to repentance, there will be fruitful and meaningful church discipline, **therefore there will be a church until Jesus returns!** In summary it is imperative to be reminded and celebrate what our reforming fathers fought for so long ago.

Introduction/Reminder

The man who gets most the credit, Martin Luther, took history changing action on October 31, 1517, by nailing on the door of "[All Saints Church](#)" in Wittenberg, his 95 theses which was mailed to the Archbishop of Mainz. Luther protested by writing debate like questions of which he took particular 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.

The Danger -These were desperate times, where people were killed for going against any belief produced by the church. The church feared losing control because it would mean losing the tangible blessing of God in their lives like land, loyalty, & livelihood.

Luther undergoes exile after his last public debate "[The Diet \(council\) of Worms](#)" in 1521 and is to be executed upon site but he is hidden by royalty and put on the run. Ten years later he translates the Bible into German and in 1529 we all inherit the name "Protestant" because we protest against the Catholic Church, and we no longer recognize the ruling power of neither the Pope nor the [Holy Roman Emperor](#) over our lives.

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

[OUR CHALLENGE]

We need to understand that being the reformed church of today requires us to inherit the steel, to grow a spine, that is united in belief, 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



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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 ourselves. As I say these words there is a movement in our land, people are coming back to church, the youth in some ways are moving on from some of the crazy ideology, but here's the thing. If we do not offer them a church built on *Sola Scriptura* they will walk again, or they will stray into heretical teaching, and we will be culpable for that sin as well.

So today I just want to touch on three points family again to remind us of the importance of this doctrine. First, we just want to simply answer, **what is Sola Scriptura?** Secondly, we want to address **why we can trust the doctrine of Sola Scriptura.** Then lastly, **why we must NEVER SURRENDER the doctrine of Sola Scriptura!**

MP:

The Bible is the only thing that substantiates Salvation in Christ and offers hope for the lost.

1. What is Sola Scriptura?

The Roman Catholic Church's tradition, governed by a three-fold system, that included scriptures, tradition, and Magisterium (Pope verdict) had separated the revelation of God from His people. The church held a grip on the scriptures to the point that only clergy knew what they said, and that only propelled the pope into doing what he wanted to do, "*Since the pope is infallible when he speaks 'ex cathedra' as the one who is the successor of the Apostle Peter's seat—all such decisions are right and good.*"¹

The way of Christianity had deformed since NT times, from a practice by which all men came to Christ by the Gospel, whereby all men are found equal by their need for a Savior. Instead in its' place, men were offered a buy-in system through indulgences and bribes to earn God's favor, where those with coin could become more righteous than those without. It is into this dark time that Luther in his fight against the wayward will of the church turns

¹ <https://g3min.org/sola-scriptura/>



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towards the Bible as the sole voice and authority for man, not man-made traditions, not the pope, but God's Word. Out of this battle came [*the 5 cries of defiance/5 Solas*](#) that were preached in the halls of the churches and universities of those protesting against the church: ***Sola Scriptura, Sola Fide, Sola Gratia, Sola Christus, and Soli deo Gloria***. All of those beliefs though, are built in the first truth we will build out today and that is:

Sola Scriptura:

"The Scriptures alone are our supreme authority. They contain, and are sufficiently clear in teaching, all things necessary for salvation and the life of faith."

In other words, the pope/the church can't keep you out of heaven, it is not up to man to condemn to Hell, because where faith is gifted, the Word saves!

Hebrews 4:12-13 ESV

¹²For 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. ¹³And 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 because of the HS divinely inspired word, the HS is united with the Word, it does what no authority can do. **It gets inside of us!** And because it is the only thing that can get inside us, it is the **only thing that has the capacity to change us. It is the ONLY thing that can convince us of our need for forgiveness, a Savior, a King, reunion with the Father, reconciliation with family, that there's life eternal, with or without God.**

That's 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 God is omniscient. All are naked and exposed. We can't hide just as Adam found out in the Garden.



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

You see Luther started 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, threats of damnation even fell flat, it was by Scripture Alone, inspired by God's HS, that got to Him!

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 for it never removed his nagging fear that he was not doing enough to save himself!

Luther:

- Started moving towards the life of a lawyer, dad wanted security
- Scared into being a monk from a [night ride in the woods \(St. Anne patron of Miners\)](#)
- Wore out his superiors, because he could not be free of guilt
- Luther had arguments with the devil, he would cause [himself pain](#) (scala sancta), 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**
¹⁷For 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.



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Family what is Sola Scriptura? It is the supreme authority of scripture over all other things, for God's Word alone has the power to save or condemn. That's why my dear family we must seek to preserve it.

2. Why we can trust the doctrine of Sola Scriptura.

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.

Just as God created all things in this world by His Words, breathing His very breath into man, then it is essential to believe that the Bible came about the same way. Scripture comes from the same place; His mouth/will/actions and gives eternal life where it is received by faith! God gives man life, that life is His, and He directs the hands of men, to write His words. Yes, it was written by the hands of man, but it was divinely inspired by God. 'For No **prophecy**' (v.21), προφητεία (*prophēteia*), **inspired utterance**, a prophecy from God², transcribed by man. The Hebrews taught that the scriptures were divine, and this is the **way we should trust them now**.

Verbal Plenary Inspiration³: Every word (Verbal) holds God's authority (all parts contain God's authority), for it was all inspired by God.

Every section in the Bible has equal importance for every section comes from God. It does not matter whether the words are in Red, or they are a part of the Gospels, or they are written by Apostles, all of scripture is authoritative in our lives, even the lineages, even the directions for building, for all of it was divinely inspired by God! That also means something very special for His people.

² **4735** προφητεία (*prophēteia*), ας (as), ἡ (hē): n.fem.; ≡ DBLHebr 2606, 5553; Str 4394; TDNT 6.781—1. LN 33.460 **inspired utterance**, a prophecy from God (Mt 13:14); **2.** LN 33.461 **ability to prophesy** (Ro 12:6; 1Co 13:2), note: there may be overlap in the verses and entries: James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

³ https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart_don/faq/bible-authoritative-word/question3-verbal-plenary-inspiration-of-scripture.cfm



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2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶All Scripture is **breathed out by God** and profitable for **teaching**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, and for **training in righteousness**, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

AND ALL OF IT is good for life, to teach us in the ways to go so we don't depart from them, for reproof that is to address sin, to correct those that are in the wrong with false ideas and equip the saints for the work of ministry. God gave us His word not 'just' to know Him but to be changed by the knowledge of knowing Him! At some point for Luther this all drove home.

[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!" (Rom 1:17). That saving thought all brought to him by inspired Word!

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. That's what scripture teaches!

Jesus followed scripture, Jesus surrendered to the authority of it, and listened to it when it told Him to go and die for the sins of others. By the obedience of a lamb that is led to a slaughter we were given His ability to obey through our Faith. **Why do we trust in the doctrine of Sola Scriptura because Jesus did, to Him the authority of God's Word was not something to be contemplated it was given to obey.**

And so now we too like Jesus can cry "Abba Father!" Jesus fulfilled all the law and we were made whole again by His efforts! 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



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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 to bear His glorious name!**

It propelled Luther, it propelled the Reformers, and it will propel you too! It propels us for it trustworthy, Highlands always bet your life on it!

3. Why we cannot surrender the doctrine of Sola Scriptura!

Colossians 2:8 ESV

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

So, we too cannot fold under the pressure of human traditions, liberal theology and its' claims of the writers wrote a Bible not suitable for today, OR we will just continue deforming ourselves allowing our light to grow dim.

This is where the world begins to roll its' eyes towards us. You can't expect us to take the OT seriously let alone literally.

- God in the OT allowed for slavery so aren't the OT teachings 'racist'.⁴
- God can't be against monogamist love even if it is between same sex.⁵
- God did not create the world in 6 days, too much evidence against that.⁶
- God in no way flooded the whole world and put animals on the ark.⁷
- God didn't really cause a global dispersion at the Tower of Babel.⁸

God placed these things in the Bible for God knew they were necessary for you to know Him. You cannot separate these things from scripture, and you cannot unhitch from the OT, or you devalue these truths. If you devalue these truths, you remove the bedrock on which the church has been built, Christ. For how can we ever know if we have ever truly found Him **IF** you question the authority, inerrancy, and sufficiency of scripture? You could never, like Luther, find God if in deed you doubt God's Word, that's what the world wants,

⁴ <https://answersingenesis.org/bible-questions/doesnt-the-bible-support-slavery/>

⁵ <https://answersingenesis.org/family/homosexuality/>

⁶ <https://answersingenesis.org/days-of-creation/>

⁷ <https://answersingenesis.org/the-flood/>

⁸ <https://answersingenesis.org/tower-of-babel/>



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don't you let them take from you the validity and proven authenticity of God's revelation!

The Son was sent into this world to save us from sin, that started in the beginning, of which the law was given to display the problem which would lead to only one solution, which is why we can never surrender the doctrine of *Sola Scripture*:

- The Son lived a **predestined** life fulfilling all the prophecies in the OT. (there are between 300-400 prophecies of Christ in the OT)⁹

Genesis 3:15 & 21 ESV

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."
²¹ And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

The Bible starts with in the beginning, a prophecy of Christ and the reason He must come, and even states that it will be by His shedding of blood that an answer will come. If you remove the doctrine of *Sola Scriptura* you remove the validity to the prophecies, allowing false Messiahs.

- The Son lived a **perfect** life completing the requirements of the OT, law and covenantal requirements.

Isaiah 53:9 ESV

And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

The way that Jesus earns a resurrection, is because He completed the works of the law.

Matthew 5:17 ESV

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to **fulfill** them."

⁹ <https://www.gotquestions.org/prophecies-of-Jesus.html>



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One must explain how a man came back from the dead, and that is because He conquered sin, you see liberal churches don't like hamartiology very much.

- The Son lived a **protectorate** life watching over us and leading us as the new Adam, our true King.

Zechariah 9:9 ESV

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Jesus offers all those that come to Him His protection FOR He is our King, back to the line of Adam, as the Gospel lineage's show. That means He is the Savior for all men, not just the Jews! Because He is a King, He has the authority to stand in our place, give us the benefits of perfect life, granting His subject forgiveness, justification, and even rewards based on His merits!

BUT If you unhitch from the OT, you remove all of that from Christ THEN you remove your need of Him. God has determined what is profitable for us, His Word, from the beginning which tells us of our need for a Savior. May we never surrender the doctrine of *Sola Scriptura*!

[CALL TO OBEY]

- Let us accept the authority of God's Word and take it for all it says going all the back to the beginning.
- Let us accept that the reason it's hard to digest sometimes because it deals with our greatest problem, our sin.
- Let us recommit to the reading and teaching of it in our homes.

MP:

**The Bible is the only thing that substantiates Salvation in Christ
and offers hope for the lost.**



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Family I want to encourage us all, live in joy and gratitude this week for the blessing of the Word of God, for it is so costly, it is so perfect, and within in it lies all our hope.

Prayer

Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ESV

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Today when you eat of the bread remember the life of Jesus which was lived for us. It starts with His work in having faith that what God established in His Word is true. While we turned from the truth of His Word Jesus embraced it, studied it, memorized it, taught it, and used it to defeat the schemes of the devil. Praise be to Him for His commitment to the Father!

Today when you drink the juice remember the cost of our sin displayed by His blood for the new covenant. And because He kept to God's Word perfectly, He earned eternal life, while at the same time He graciously took our death sentence. The spilling of His blood provides the covering we need to remove the guilt and shame of sin. Praise be to Him for His wonderful love!

[CONFESSION OF FAITH]

* The Congregation will stand

Elder – **"Christians, what do we believe?"** Congregation – recites:



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LBCF 1689 Chapter 1. Of the Holy Scriptures, Paragraph 4. The Bible is Authoritative Because It Is the Word of God

The Bible should be believed because of its authority, which does not depend upon the testimony of any person or church, but rather upon God, who is the author and is truth itself. Therefore, the Bible should be received because it is the Word of God. 7

7. 2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 John 5:9

[OFFERING+LAST SONG]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that has left us all that we need to know to discover who He is for all of life, His Word.

Go in the name of the Son, that fulfilled all of scripture, so that we may know we can trust ALL of the Bible to light our way.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, that will keep conferring to us the truth of Scripture, increasing our faith, and emboldening us to share this good news with others.

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