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Pastor-Teacher | Chris Regas

Scripture Alone vs Scripture Plus

Lesson Five

One Way to Study the Five Solas Is to Ask the Question: "What Must I Do to Be Saved?"



- 1) Who has the ultimate authority to answer this question? **SCRIPTURE** Alone / Sola Scriptura!
- 2) So what does *Scripture Alone* say we must do to be saved? **FAITH** Alone / Sola Fide!
- 3) So who and what does *Scripture Alone* say that *Faith Alone* must actually trust in? **CHRIST** Alone / Solus Christus!
- 4) So according to *Scripture Alone*, what does *Faith Alone* in *Christ Alone* actually mean in terms of the basis for our salvation? **GRACE** Alone / Sola Gratia!
- 5) So according to *Scripture Alone*, what does salvation by *Grace Alone* through *Faith Alone* in *Christ Alone* actually mean? To **GOD** Alone Be the Glory / Soli Deo Gloria!

The Reformation: A Struggle Between Scripture **ALONE** vs. Scripture **PLUS**

1. The Roman Catholic Church Believes in Scripture **PLUS** not Scripture **ALONE**.

- ❖ In Luther's day and still in our day, the RCC believes the Scriptures are "uniquely" inspired but still gives **EQUAL** or **GREATER** authority to Scripture **PLUS** the Sacred Traditions and Teaching Authority of the RCC.

FINAL AUTHORITY in the ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH RESTS on a **THREE-LEGGED STOOL** with **EQUAL AUTHORITY**

<p>Sacred Scripture <i>Uniquely Inspired including the Apocrypha</i> (Divine Revelation)</p>	<p>Sacred Tradition <i>Teachings of the Church Fathers and Councils</i> (Human Rulings with Divine Authority)</p>	<p>Sacred Magisterium <i>Pope, Bishops, and Councils</i> (Human Rulers with Divine Authority)</p>
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But the Reformers Protested This Claim by Saying...

"The ungodly papists prefer the authority of the church far above God's Word; a blasphemy abominable and not to be endured; wherewith, void of all shame and piety, they spit in God's face. Truly, God's patience is exceeding great, in that they be not destroyed; but so it always has been." – Martin Luther, Table Talk

Sadly, the RCC doubled down on this heresy at the Council of Trent in the 16th century and has yet to recant of this error to this day.

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"The sacred and holy, ecumenical, and general Synod of Trent...the purity itself of the Gospel be preserved in the Church...and seeing clearly that this truth and discipline are contained in the written books, and the unwritten traditions...receives and venerates with an equal affection of piety, and reverence, all the books both of the Old and of the New Testament... as also the said traditions...as having been dictated, either by Christ's own word of mouth, or by the Holy Ghost, and preserved in the Catholic Church by a continuous succession." – Council of Trent, 1545-1563

Papal Infallibility and Speaking Ex Cathedra

When the Pope speaks from his chair/throne (Latin = *Ex Cathedra*), he is preserved from even the possibility of error "in the exercise of his office as shepherd and teacher of all Christians, in virtue of his supreme apostolic authority, he defines a doctrine concerning faith or morals to be held by the whole Church." – Vatican I, 1869-1870

The "sacred tradition, sacred Scripture, and the teaching authority of the Church...are so linked together that one cannot stand without the others." – Vatican II, 1962-1965

The "task of authentically interpreting the word of God, whether written or handed on, has been entrusted exclusively to the living teaching office of the Church." – Vatican II, 1962-1965

- ❖ Letting any anyone or anything have **equal authority** or **greater authority** than the Bible is **NOTHING NEW**.
Adam and Eve **sinfully fell** by letting this happen in the Garden when the Devil said, "Has God said?" **Genesis 3**
Jesus **severely rebuked** the religious leaders in his day of doing this very thing. **Mark 7:5-9**
Paul **seriously warns** us to constantly be on our guard against doing this very thing still today! **Colossians 2:8-10**

- ❖ Today we still are **TEMPTED** to let many things have **equal** or **greater** authority in our lives.

Scripture ALONE	Scripture EQUAL	Scripture UNDER
<p>Scripture ALONE Has Final Authority</p> <p>OVER</p> <p>Traditions & Authorities Reason & Science Experience & Culture</p>	<p>Scripture EQUAL in Authority</p> <p>Traditions & Authorities Reason & Science Experience & Culture</p>	<p>Traditions & Rulers Reason & Science Experience & Culture Have Final Authority</p> <p>OVER</p> <p>Scripture</p>

Remember What “ALONE” means...

- 1) It means “**PLUS NOTHING**” as the ultimate standard and final authority! *It means whatever it is attached to is **supreme and sufficient** in what it does!* Matthew 4:4; 1Timothy 4:7-9
- 2) It doesn’t mean **OTHER THINGS** are not useful in living for God. *It means that no matter whatever else may help us in our Christian lives it must be submitted to what is alone sufficient and supreme.*

2. Luther and the Reformers Believed and LIVED by Sola Scriptura (Imperfectly and Not Always as Consistently as Some Radical Reformers).

- ❖ Luther never saw a Bible until he was 20 years old in the university library at Erfurt (1503) and would not be able to study it in depth until after he became a monk two years later (1505)!
- ❖ Luther rarely heard a sermon preached from the Bible - often only one sermon a year at Lent.
- ❖ Luther taught through these books of the Bible after becoming a professor of Bible (1512) and finally found God’s answer to the question of salvation in the Scriptures!

Psalms (1513-15); Romans (1515-16); Hebrews (1517); Galatians (1519); Psalms (1518-21)

“Someone asked Luther for his psalter, which was old and ragged, promising to give him a new one in exchange; but the doctor refused, because he was used to his own old copy, adding: “A local memory is very useful, and I have weakened mine in translating the Bible.” – Martin Luther, Table Talk

- ❖ Luther stood before the greatest political and religious powers of his day and refused to change his beliefs (recant), unless he was convinced by sound reasoning based on Scripture Alone!
- ❖ Luther burned the Papal Bull (Latin “*Bulla*” for “Seal”) he received that threatened him with excommunication by the Pope unless he recanted and burned his books!
- ❖ Luther translated the Bible into German from the original languages, so the common person would have a common Bible they could hear preached, read for themselves, understand for themselves, apply to themselves, and teach to their children and others.

“While the Romish church stood, the Bible was never given to the people in such a shape that they could clearly, understandingly, surely, and easily read it, as they now can in the German translation, which, thank God, we have prepared here at Wittenberg.” – Martin Luther, Table Talk

Sola Scriptura is not just a conviction to stand on but also a lifestyle to LIVE OUT on a daily basis!

Back to the Bible: Scripture Alone as Taught in 2 Timothy 3:14–4:5

1. Paul is laser-focused on what is ESSENTIAL to finishing well: *Scripture Alone!*

“Scripture alone is the true lord and master of all writings and doctrines on earth. If that is not granted, what is Scripture good for? The more we reject it, the more we become satisfied with men’s books and human teachers.” – Martin Luther

“Let us not lose the Bible, but with diligence, in fear and invocation of God, read and preach it. While that remains and flourishes, all prospers with the state; ‘tis head and empress of all arts and faculties. Let but divinity fall, and I would not give a straw for the rest.” – Martin Luther, Table Talk

“When I was young, I read the Bible over and over and over again, and was so perfectly acquainted with it, that I could, in an instant, have pointed to any verse that might have been mentioned. I then read the commentators, but I soon threw them aside, for I found therein many things my conscience could not approve, as being contrary to the sacred text. ‘Tis always better to see with one’s own eyes than with those of other people.” – Martin Luther, Table Talk

“Great is the strength of the Divine Word. In the epistle to the Hebrews, it is called “a two-edged sword.” But we have neglected and condemned the pure and clear Word, and have drunk not of the fresh and cool spring; we are gone from the clear fountain to the foul puddle, and drunk its filthy water; that is, we have sedulously read old writers and teachers, who went about with speculative reasonings, like the monks and friars.” – Martin Luther, Table Talk

2. Scripture Alone: The Bible Is UNIQUELY NECESSARY to Bridge the Gap in Knowing and Glorifying God.

“Sola Scriptura means that only Scripture, because it is God’s inspired Word, is our inerrant, sufficient, and final authority for the church.”
– Matthew Barret, *God’s Word Alone: The Authority of Scripture*

*The London Baptist Confession 1689 on Scripture Alone as the Uniquely Necessary Final Authority
Concerning the Holy Scriptures – Articles 1, 6, and 10*



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