

## **Background and History of “Sola Scriptura”**

- What is known as the Protestant Reformation, began in the 16th century and the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church were challenged by a man named Martin Luther;
- In an attempt of academic debate, Luther nailed the “95 Theses” to the door of the Wittenberg Castle and challenged the teachings of the pope on October 31, 1517;
- The 95 Theses were an attempt to bring reform and revival in the church, not division;
- In December of 1545, many Catholic bishops gathered at the Council of Trent; the first formal reply to the protestants (Catholic-Counter Reformation) in opposition of several doctrines (such as “Sola Scriptura”);
- During this meetings, the Catholic church affirmed that they received special revelation from 3 sources:

(1) Holy Scripture

(2) traditions of the church--including unwritten ones,

(3) “ex cathedra” or “from the chair”--teachings from the Pope (“vicarius Christi” or “Christ on earth)

--*The background and history is not meant as an attack on Catholic brothers and sisters. However, “Sola Scriptura” is a point of distinction for Christians.*

-- *“The foundation of our religion is the written word, the Scriptures of God.” - Huldrych Zwingli*

**Psalm 19:7** The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;

- The law of the Lord is perfect; you do not tamper with something that is perfect; you do not add or take away from something that is perfect, but we do both in church culture and in our personal lives;
- If we add to the Word of God, we become legalistic and self-righteous and we lead ourselves to believe that it is our works that lead God to have favor on us;
- If we take away from the Word of God, we then license His word; where we pick and choose what benefits us or sounds good to us which breeds a lack of faith in what God has promised or is presumptuous;
- The Word revives our souls--that is, it restores us; it makes us alive

- *“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.” (John 6:63)*

- The testimony of God is that which is known about God and it is sure which means we can trust it; not simply a source of information, but a testimony of transformation;
- The word of God makes the simple wise--as we rely on the Word of God, an aspect of transformation is that we are now able to apply the Word of God to our daily lives;

- *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil.” (Proverbs 3:5-7)*

**Psalm 19:8** The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;

- The precepts (rules) are right; we can have confidence in the Word because it is true and truth provides us with security; security in the truth leads us to joy; complete satisfaction in the person and work of Jesus!
- Joy is a status; despite our circumstances we can rejoice because of who Jesus is, what He has promised, and in what He is doing
- God commands are pure which means that they are clean, undefiled, and incorruptible; there is no error and that's reassuring to the believe as a child hearing their father;
- We become enlightened because as we saturate ourselves in the Scriptures, we learn more about who God is and who we are; brings forth spiritual discernment

- *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2)*

- As our eyes are opened to the truth of God, we clearly see and are free to fall to our knees and worship Jesus Christ for dying on a cross for sinners, absorbing our sin, and imputing His righteousness to us.

**Psalm 19:9-11** 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.

- God pursues His children and His word cleanses our sin and sanctifies the heart;
- *What's in the storehouse?* The Fear of the Lord.
- And His word endures forever! It is unchanging and that brings great assurance for several reasons
  - (1) It's about Jesus, not me
    - *“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures.” (1 Corinthians 15:3)*
  - (2) Security: we have security in the promises of God
  - (3) While we and culture change, the Word of God doesn't which means we must do business with what we believe;
- His rules are true and righteous; righteousness is only obtained through faith in the finished work of Jesus--when He cried out, “It is finished!”, the way by which salvation is obtained and we're reconciled to God is through Jesus alone.

• *What is it that you desire?*

• The Word of God is invaluable; if we are going to be most satisfied in Jesus then we must be saturated in the pages of Scripture;

• The psalmist knows that through God's word He is warned and that it is only His word that is the remedy;

• The psalmist knows (and this is the reminder) that there is reward that comes with relying on the Word of God; to have security, transformation, and joy is made possible through the ministry of the Word of God; we are reminded of our reward in His word--eternal sonship and the presence of God

**Psalm 19:12-13** *Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.*

• The Word transforms the sinner; it exposes our sin; shows us who Jesus is and who we are and should lead us to repentance;

• If you and I wish to be free from sin then we must beg God to use the ministry of His word in our lives;

- *"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness..." (2 Timothy 3:16)*

**Psalm 19:14** *Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.*

• The final words are the cry of His heart; that this would be seen as acceptable worship;

• Relying on the forgiveness of God, seeking protection from sin's dominion;

• Do you wish to grow more? Know God? This cannot happen apart from the Scriptures; we should be hungry for the Word of God

- *"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." (Psalm 119:11)*

### **Final Thoughts**

*If you desire to experience restoration, transformation, and hear from God then we must be saturated in the pages of Scripture; stop turning to the culture for help and stop adding to what isn't written; immerse yourself in the Word of God.*