**The FIVE SOLAS – Scripture alone**

**1517, church leaders began protesting a works-based theology in contradiction to Scripture (started by Martin Luther). Soon the cry for change was the beginning of what became the protestant reformation.**

**Within that movement, there were five core declarations.**

**They were a response to errors in the Catholic church.**

**They became the foundations of the protestant church.**

**The Five Solas: 5 Core Truths - Five basic principles**

**\* Why is this series called Sola? Sola (Latin for alone / only)**

1. **Sola Scriptura (Scripture alone) - Bible alone is the final authority**
2. **Solus Christus (Christ alone) - Through Jesus Christ alone**
3. **Sola Fide (Faith alone) - Saved through faith alone in Jesus Christ**
4. **Sola Gratia (Grace alone) - By the grace of God alone**
5. **Soli Deo Gloria (God’s glory alone) - For the glory of God alone.**

**Why Sola Scriptura? Scripture alone serves as the authority and measure for all matters of life, faith, and practice.**

**It affirms the Bible's authority - the final authority of God.**

**Approaches to the Bible: Sola Scriptura Vs. Prima Scriptura!**

**\*\* Sola Scriptura – Only Scripture / Scripture Alone**

**(Acts 17:11, 1 Corinthians 4:6, Mark 7:6-9, 2 Timothy 2:15, 2 Tim 4:2)**

**The Bible alone is the source of truth and instruction as properly understood. All practices, customs, traditions are subject to the Bible.**

**\*\* Prima Scriptura – First Scripture / Scripture Above (Acts 15:6-30)**

**Start with the bible – then looks tradition, mystical insight, common sense, expert opinions, experience, practicality, church authority, and cultural relevance.**

**Catholic, Anglican, Wesleyan, Methodist: quadrilateral are:**

1. **Scripture, (2) tradition, (3) reason, and (4) experience**

**Sola Scriptura is not Bible worship – or an absence of creeds.**

**But states that tradition, reason, and experience are to be understood through the lens of scripture – the final authority.**

**People who believe the Bible is true and when properly understood and follows its very words are insultingly called fundamentalist.**

**Unfortunately, many would rather have an experience than know God’s word. Experiences can be a counterfeit of true spirituality and truth, and experiences alone can be very misleading.**

**\*\* The Bible alone (sola) is the final source of truth in life and faith.**

**How do we know this?**

* **THE OT – the prophets declared they were writing and speaking the very Word of God. The authority of God to be followed and obeyed.**
* **Isaiah 8:20- those who speak apart from God’s word have no light in them.**

**The longest chap in the Bible is Psalm 119 – it deals exclusively w/the written Word of God. It consists of 176 verses - each one speaks about the power and authority of God’s Word.**

**Psalm 19:7 The law (Word) of the LORD is perfect, (complete) reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, (reliable) making wise the simple; 8 the precepts of the Lord are right, (straight – will not lead you astray) rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, (clean) enlightening the eyes; 9 the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, (faithful – firm/unmovable) and righteous (just) altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. 11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; (corrected path) in keeping them there is great reward. (warned and rewarded)**

**LORD, may we know the warnings and rewards of your Word!!**

**Deuteronomy 29:29 The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law. (What God does reveal is found in the word of God).**

**Mark 7:6-9 Jesus (the Word of God in the flesh - criticized those who let tradition override the Word of God) 9 And he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition!**

**The Bible is to be the final word on life and faith.**

**(an example) Acts 17:11 Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.**

**Hebrews 4:12 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.**

**(Paul instructs) 1 Cor 4:6 I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another.**

**We must not go beyond what is written by the prophets and the apostles - including the gospels and the NT letters –**

**2 Peter 1:19-21 (After explain how he saw, heard, and walked with Jesus, and heard God’s voice himself) 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.**

**\*\* Without the HS one is not able to properly handle and understand the Word of God (Eph 2:1-2, 4:18, Rom 1:21, 1 Jo 1)**

**Thus, the mishandling and abuse of the Bible. Because the Bible is inspired, Bible interprets the Bible / 2-3 passages to form doctrine.**

**2 Timothy 3:12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, (if you want to live for Jesus – some will not like you) 13 while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. (not just in the culture – but also in the church)**

**14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it (Sacred writings = the prophets (OT) and the apostles (NT) 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, (the prophets) which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.**

**16 All Scripture (prophets and the apostles) 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. (we will break this down in weeks to come)**

**\*\* Since the Bible is sufficient – it alone is a reliable guide.**

**The Bible is complete and authoritative. Some will try to lead you away from the Word – but do not be deceived…**

**Only God’s Word is God-breathed. Not a constitution, a creed, or tradition. The prophets and the apostle's writings gave the very Word of God - Scripture is the supreme authority.**

**Let’s take a look at - How God uses the Bible in our life (2 Tim 3:16-17)**

**2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching,**

**\*\* For Teaching (Doctrine) – the authority to tell us what to believe.**

**The word of God tells us the truth about God, man, the world, and eternity. (LBT – “to teach us what is true”) Theology matters.**

**So many Christians believe wacky stuff – simply because they do not read the bible for themselves.**

**What we believe about God (theology) must be grounded.**

**God’s character, values, expectations, what is salvation, heaven, earth, judgement, how to treat others – all must be grounded. The world, flesh and Satan blur the line to something relative and fluid.**

**We align our experiences to the Word of God (not vise versa)**

**2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable… for reproof…**

**\*\* For Reproof (Rebuke) – the authority to discipline**

**Spiritual rebuke – conviction. God has a way of convicting us through his Word when we read it. More so than an other book or teacher.**

**It exposes false teaching and conduct when properly understood.**

**That is why some avoid it – some don’t want to be told no, or to see their own misguided decisions or sin.**

**2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable… for correction,**

**\*\* For Correction (to set straight) – the authority to tell us what to do.**

**The Bible not only point out areas but also gets us back on tract when we follow it. Restores us straightens us out.**

**2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable… for training in righteousness…**

**\*\* For Training (in righteousness) the authority to tell us how to live.**

**To know the true grace of Jesus and what is looks like to serve and honor God with our life and actions.**

**God gives us His Word for - Doctrine, Correction, an Instruction – why?**

**2 Tim 3:17 so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (What does that mean?)**

* **That we may be Complete – The Word of God gives us everything we need to know and follow Jesus – completely. It is sufficient.**
* **That we may be Equipped – outfitted for God’s work and mission. Ready to live and serve God in out daily life!**

**When we read the Bible – it teaches us, corrects us, prepares us, and launches us into the world!**

**But just because you own one – or occasionally skim it – does not mean this will happen… How to truly benefit from the Word of God.**

**After Moses passed away, Joshua was now the leader, a heavy burden!**

**He was to cross the Jordan - God, I need you more than ever… praying God tells him, “Don’t be afraid – I was with Moses, I will be with you…”**

**We now know that it is Jesus that spoke to Moses.**

**Then Jesus tells him how… Joshua 1:7 “Be strong and very courageous. (we love that part, be strong but… but this is how) Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night,** **so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (as Ps 1)**

**What is successful and prosperous in Life?**

**v8 “successful and prosperous” is defined by v9 “Lord your God will be with you” The Lord’s presence is the reward, his peace, contentment, joy, confidence – because thru the Word we know the LORD is with you!**

**How to truly benefit from the Word of God**

1. **Know the Word – v7-9**

**You can’t live in the blessing of the Word of God unless you know it.**

**Know what is says for yourself! Not just an echo of a preacher, teacher, book, sermon, of your parents, family or your kids.**

**\*\* Reading the Bible 4X per week - video**

1. **Obey the Word – v7 “…be careful to obey all the law”**

**To know something and to do it is a whole other thing.**

**James 1:22 Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.**

**Matt 7:24 -Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. (vs. house built on sand)**

**Jesus said - Luke 6:46 Why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' but not do what I say?**

**Many “know” the Word – but don’t follow it. Choosing instead their own feelings and opinions. Only to wonder why their life is not working out.**

1. **Keep the Word – v7 “…do not turn to the right or the left”**

**This is about consistently following it. Keep on track. Your map.**

**We don’t try God’s word out. Dipping our toes in… we dive in! And we don’t give up or take the exit if it get’s hard.**

**We know it, obey it – and keep on living it even when we don’t see it - or understand how it works = that is FAITH!**

1. **Speak the Word - v8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips…**

**The successful don’t just read it – they speak it, and they share it!**

**The picture is one who reads it outload to be heard by others.**

**You believe it so much it needs to be shared. It’s not a private thing. The magnificent, marvelous, matchless love of Jesus!**

1. **Meditate on the Word – v8 …meditate on it day and night…**

**We don’t just speak to others we speak it to ourselves.**

**Keep it on your mind – think/ponder it. Think of marinated chicken soaking in seasoning. Read it slow enough to soak.**

**\*\* The lost art of Biblical meditation – it unlocks the storehouse of faith.**

**It has been said that 1 in 100 Christians read Bible regularly; 1 in 1000 memorize Scripture; but only 1 in 10,000 meditate!**

**Psalm 1:1-2 – Blessed is the one who meditates on God’s Word day and night.**

**How do we meditate on it? First read it – then think about it – and think about it – and think about it – and then later, think about it.**

**Meditation is to intentionally call to mind and to dwell on it.**

**Memorization is a step in meditation.**

**Spurgeon compared it to a cow chewing the cud. Chew on it – throughout the day. Can’t chew on what you haven’t put in your mouth.**

**So often we chew on things or call to mind and dwell on things unhealthy, depressing, & worrisome. Replaying things over.**

**That’s why what we put in our mind is so important – it often determines what we think & dwell (meditate) about.**

**Last one - Joshua 1:7 Be careful to “obey all of it” / 8 “do everything in it”**

1. **Walk out all the Word**

**We don’t get to pick and choose what we like or don’t about the Bible.**

**How some live: Rip pages out - I like that, but not that. If this part is not true – how can this part be true. If you are picking what to believe, you are the final authority – not sola scriptura.**

**2 Timothy 4:2** **I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: 2 preach the word; (Declare it!! Share it!!! Be the messenger of it!!) be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. (what He had just said earlier that the Word of God does) 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.**

**Some pick and choose, isolate, cross out, rationalize away – claim it’s unrealistic or outdated - as a result they wander off into lies.**

**BUT - Those who learn to read it, know it, love it, live it, do it, walk it, meditate on it, obey it, and do not turn from it will have joy, contentment, and confidence that the LORD is with us!**

**This is not about following, trusting, or obey words on a page - but following, trusting, and obey the very heart of God given to mankind thru the Word of God. This is trusting the Word of Jesus – Sola Scrip.**

**I want to end with a story about the power of God’s word. Michael P - Attending the Zone (a girl) God began to work on his heart. We began to meet. I encouraged him to read Gospel of Mark and let’s talk about it. One week… My words are not inspired, cannot eternally change your life. But I know what can, the Word of God!**

**The Word of God – became flesh (John 1) \*\* To Know the Word is to know Jesus \*\* To love Jesus is to love his Words**

**The word – God in the flesh –stepped into our life to live the Word, fulfill the Word, and give his life for salvation.**

**1 Peter 1:22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth (the truth is God’s word) for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (3 great rolls of scripture – to lead us to the knowledge of salvation, to know the great love of God, and to grow in our love for others)**

**23 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; (the word of God – was the seed that gave truth that led to salvation in Jesus)**

**(Then Peter compares the apostle’s writings to the OT – quoting Isaiah 40:8) 24 for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, 25 but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news (the gospel) that was preached to you.**