

Sola Scriptura

- Review

- Church history from Pentecost to Martin Luther
- Steven Lawson - "*Luther came to realize that salvation was a gift for the guilty, not a reward for the righteous.*"
- James 3:5 "How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!"
- The 5 solas
 - Sola Scriptura (not church councils)
 - Sola Gratia (not penance)
 - Sola Fide (not works)
 - Solus Christus (not church teachings)
 - Soli Deo Gloria (not the saints)

- Hold your Bible during the sermon.

- Sola Scriptura answers this question: "What is the source of authority in the church?"

- Syllabus

- **The Inspiration of Scripture (Authorship)**

- God is the author of the Scriptures
 - 2 Timothy 3:16 - "All Scripture is breathed out by God, and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness."
 - Exodus 31:18 - "And he gave to Moses, when he had finished speaking with him on Mt. Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God."
 - 1 Corinthians 10:11 "Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction..."
- Gets its true, authoritative, powerful character from God Himself.
- Inspired human writers to write exactly what He wanted them to write.
- He did not dictate. He worked through their unique personalities and circumstances.
- Scripture is fully human and fully divine. (e.g. Jesus is fully human and fully divine)
- Both the testimony of God's revelation, and it is revelation itself.
 - 2 Peter 1:20-21 "Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the human will, but *men spoke from God* as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

- Because the Bible is God's words in human words, it can be trusted as the definitive revelation from the mouth of God.

- **The Inerrancy of Scripture**

- The doctrine of inerrancy means that the Bible is entirely truthful and reliable in all that it affirms in its original manuscripts.
 - Copies
 - The ten commandments
 - Deut 17:18 "And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a **copy** of this law, approved by the Levitical priests."
 - Jeremiah 36:27 "Now after the king had burned the scroll with the words that Baruch wrote at Jeremiah's dictation, the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: 28 "Take another scroll and write on it all the former words that were in the first scroll, which Jehoiakim the king of Judah has burned."
 - Another way to say it is that the Bible does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact.
 - Because God is the author, and He is perfectly truthful, His word is therefore completely truthful as well.
 - Titus 1:2 - "Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life, *which God, who never lies*, promised before the ages began..."
 - It would be contrary to His nature to affirm anything else.
 - God is all-knowing, always truthful and good, and all-powerful, so He always tells the truth.
 - Because he is omnipotent, he is able to communicate and preserve His Word.
 - 2 Samuel 7:28 "And now, O Lord, you are God, *and your words are true*, and you have promised this good thing to your servant."
 - Proverbs 30:5 "*Every word of God proves true*; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him."
 - The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy 1978 (19 articles) 1, 2
 - It is not itself Scripture
 - Preface -
 - "The authority of Scripture is a key issue for the Christian Church in this and every age. Those who profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are called to show the reality of their discipleship by humbly and faithfully obeying God's written Word. To stray from Scripture in faith or conduct is disloyalty to

our Master. Recognition of the total truth and trustworthiness of Holy Scripture is essential to a full grasp and adequate confession of its authority."

- Article 1 -
 - We affirm that the Holy Scriptures are to be received as the authoritative Word of God.
 - We deny that the Scriptures receive their authority from the Church, tradition, or any other human source.
- Article 2 -
 - We affirm that the Scriptures are the supreme written norm by which God binds the conscience, and that the authority of the Church is subordinate to that of Scripture.
 - We deny that Church creeds, councils, or declarations have authority greater than or equal to the authority of the Bible.

- **The Clarity of Scripture (perspicuity)**

- In general, with the illumination of the Spirit, the teaching of the Bible is clear to anyone who seek understanding with the goal of knowing and obeying God.
 - Deuteronomy 6:6-7, "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."
 - Psalm 19:7, "The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, *making wise the simple*;"
- Jesus' teaching was based squarely on the OT Scriptures, *and he assumed that its teaching was clear*.
 - Have you not read?
 - Matt 12:3 - "At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. 2 But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, "Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath." 3 He said to them, "*Have you not read* what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him..."
 - Matt 19:4 - "And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" 4 He answered, "*Have you not read* that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female..."
 - Matt 21:42 - "Jesus said to them, "*Have you never read in the Scriptures:* ""The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

- Matt 22:31 - "And as for the resurrection of the dead, *have you not read what was said to you by God: 32 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'?* He is not God of the dead, but of the living."
 - "You are wrong because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God" (Matt 22:29)
 - What if Jesus walked in the door and you asked Him a question.
- When Christians disagree, it is not the Scripture at fault, but them.
- Misunderstandings can be due to sin, ignorance, faulty assumptions
- The Bible's emphasis is not on difficulties, but rather on the fact that ordinary believers are capable of comprehending Scriptures for themselves.
- There are some difficult passages:
 - 2 Peter 3:14-18 "Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. 15 And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, 16 as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures."
 - The deep things of God are just the simple things of God made more clear.
 - VHS vs 4K
 - God as provided teachers - 1 Corinthians 12:28 "And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues."
- Believers have the right and the responsibility to read, interpret and understand the Bible.
- This was the assumption of the reformers who translated the Bible into common language. They believed that all true Christians are priests who are able to know God for themselves through His word, and to help others do the same.
- **The Sufficiency of Scripture**
 - Provides all words from God that we need in order to know God truly and personally.
 - Everything we need for him to tell us in order to live an abundant and godly life:
 - Psalm 19:7 - 9 "The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
 - the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;
 - 8 the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
 - the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;
 - 9 the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;

- the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether."
- 2 Timothy 3:14-15 "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the *sacred writings*, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."
- God has given his people a sufficient revelation of himself so that they are able to know, trust, and obey him.
 - 2 Timothy 3:16 -17 "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."
 - 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."
- God commands that nothing be added to or taken away from the Bible, which means it has always been exactly what he intended at every stage in its development in the history of salvation.
 - Deut. 4:2 "You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you."
 - Deut. 12:32 "Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it."
 - Proverbs 30:5-6 - "Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. 6 Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar."
- The powerful admonition against tampering that stands at the conclusion of the entire Bible applies not only to the book of Revelation, but also to the entire Bible:
 - Revelation 22:18-19 "I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book."
- Believers should find freedom and encouragement in the knowledge that God has provided all of the absolutely authoritative instruction that we need in order to know him and live as he intends.
- 2 Peter 1:3-4 "His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so

that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire."

- God's people should never fear that he has withheld something that they might need to know in order to please him.
- They also should never fear that he will somehow have to supplement his Word in order to address some new situation in their current age.
- The canon of Scripture has been closed.
 - Book of Mormon
 - Apocrypha
- The NT allows for the activity of the Holy Spirit to lead and guide individuals, but this guidance is always in line with Scripture, never in opposition to scriptural commands.
 - John 16:13 "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come."
- Believers should be satisfied with what Scripture teaches, and satisfied with what it leaves unsaid:
 - Deut. 29:29 "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."
 - Proverbs 25:2a "It is the glory of God to conceal things..."
 - Acts 1:6 "So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- **Jesus' view of Scripture**

- When Jesus was tempted - "It is written..."
- When Satan twisted the Scriptures to tempt him, he responded with Scripture.
- Many times Jesus responded - "Have you not read?"
- The most convincing reason to believe that the Bible is inspired, inerrant, clear and sufficient is because that is what Jesus believed.
- His teaching assumed that the entire OT was the authoritative Word of his Father:
 - Matt. 5:17-18 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have not come to abolish but to fulfill them..."

- And he did not come to abolish them by fulfilling them. He came to vindicate them.
- Jesus referred to dozens of OT persons and events, and always treated OT history as historically accurate.
- He quoted from Genesis as his Father's Word:
 - Matt 19:4 - "And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" 4 He answered, "*Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female...*"
- Jesus not only assumed the creation account was true, he also quoted words of the OT narrator as words that God himself said.
- Jesus' teachings rested squarely on OT scripture:
 - Matt 5:11-12 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, *for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*"
 - Matt 11:23-24 " And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. 24 But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you."
 - Luke 4:25-27 "But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, 26 and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. 27 And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian."
- Jesus view of the OT as the Word of God aligns with the way that the OT regularly speaks of itself.
- Jesus saw his entire life as the fulfillment of Scripture:
 - Jesus is about to be arrested - Matt. 26:53-54 "Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? 54 But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?"
- Throughout his life Jesus used Scripture to resist temptation:
 - Matt. 4:1-11 the temptation
- He used Scripture to settle disputes:
 - Matt. 19:1-12 Divorce
 - Matt. 22:36-37 The greatest commandment
 - Mark 7:6-8 Eating with unwashed hands

- At the end of his life, Jesus died quoting Scripture:
 - Matt. 27:26 "My God! My God! Why have you forsaken me?"
- On his resurrection day, on the road to Emmaus, and to his disciples in Jerusalem, he explained the Scriptures:
 - Luke 24:13-27 the road to Emmaus (read from Bible)
- Conscious of his identity as God the Son, Jesus saw his teaching as no less divinely inspired than the OT. He taught with an authority that distinguished him from all others.
- He interpreted the OT law on his own authority:
 - Matt. 5:21 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire."
- He described the OT law and his teaching as having equal preeminence:
 - Matt. 24:35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."
- The NT witness of the apostles was a result of Jesus giving his disciples authority and power through the Holy Spirit to impart spiritual truths in writing no less than by word of mouth:
 - Acts 26:15-16 Paul's conversion
 - 1 Corinthians 2:12-13 "Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. 13 And we *impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit*, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual."
- Jesus took the Scriptures to be the authoritative Word of God upon which he based his entire life. Those who follow Christ are called to treat all Scripture in the same way.
- The Bible is a source of great delight and joy!
- God is to be diligently sought in his Word. It is a precious treasure that deserves to be studied, meditated upon, and obeyed:
 - Proverbs 2:1-5 "My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, 2 making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; 3 yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, 4 if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, 5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God."

- Martin Luther - "Unless I am convinced by proofs from Scriptures or by plain and clear reasons and arguments, I cannot and will not retract, for it is neither safe nor wise to do anything against conscience. Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me. Amen."
- Sola Scriptura

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