

Sunday, July 5, 2020
Sola Scriptura; Scripture Alone
Text: 2 Timothy 3

INTRODUCTION

What Does Sola Scriptura Mean?

From Ligonier Ministries; August 7, 2015; From John MacArthur

The Reformation principle of sola Scriptura has to do with the sufficiency of the Scripture as our supreme authority in all spiritual matters. Sola Scriptura simply means that all truth necessary for our salvation and spiritual life is taught either explicitly or implicitly in Scripture. It is not a claim that all truth of every kind is found Scripture. The most ardent defender of sola Scriptura will concede, for example, that Scripture has little or nothing to say about DNA structures, microbiology, the rules of Chinese grammar, or rocket science. This or that “scientific truth,” for example, may or may not be actually true, whether or not it can be supported by Scripture – but Scripture is a “more sure Word,” standing above all other truth in its authority and certainty. It is “more sure,” according to the apostle Peter, than the data we gather firsthand through our senses (2 Peter 1:19). Therefore, Scripture is the highest and supreme authority on any matter on which it speaks.

But there are many important questions on which Scripture is silent. Sola Scriptura makes no claim to the contrary. Nor does sola Scriptura claim that everything Jesus or the apostles ever taught is preserved in Scripture. It only means that everything necessary, everything binding on our consciences, and everything God requires of us is given to us in Scripture (2 Peter 1:3).

Furthermore, we are forbidden to add to or take away from Scripture (cf. Deuteronomy 4:12; 12:32; Revelation 22:18 – 19). To add to it is to lay on people a burden that God Himself does not intend for them to bear (cf. Matthew 23:4).

Scripture is therefore the perfect and only standard of spiritual truth, revealing infallibly all that we must believe in order to be saved and all that we must do in order to glorify God. That – more, no less – is what sola Scriptura means.

“The whole counsel of God, concerning all things necessary for his own glory, man’s salvation, faith, and life, is either expressly set down in scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men.”

Westminster Confession of Faith

1. Greatest Mystery:

1.1) God SPOKE creation.

Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 12, 14, 20, 24, 26, 28, 29

1.2) Hebrews 11:3, “*By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.*”

2. Greatest Duration:

2.1) Isaiah 40:8, “*the grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.*”

2.2) Matthew 24:35, “*Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.*”

2.3) 1 Peter, “*but the word of the Lord remains forever.*” *And this word is the good news that was preached to you.*”

3. Greatest Promises:

3.1) Born again, “*Having purified you souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God:*”

1 Peter 1:22 and 23

3.2) Grow in faith, “*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*”

Romans 10:17

4. Greatest Work:

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.*”

4.1) Teaching: instruction (the function or the information): - doctrine, learning teaching

1 Timothy 4:16, “*Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.*”

James 3:1, “*Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.*”

4.2) Reproof: used 2 times, meaning: a proof, that by which a thing is proved or tested and conviction

Hebrews 11:1, “*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*”

4.3) Correction: only occurrence, meaning: restoration to an upright or right state and correction, improvement of life or character

4.4) Training: the whole training and education of children; “whatever in adults also cultivates the soul, especially by correcting mistakes and curbing the passions”; hence, instruction which aims as the increase of virtue according to biblical usage chastisement, chastening

see Hebrews 12:1 - 13

Conclusion:

2 Timothy 2:15, “*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.*”