

## Sola Scriptura —SCRIPTURE ALONE

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**"Would You Protest?" (Pt. 2)**

October 8, 2017

**INTRO** ...The 500 yr anniversary of the Reformation—the 5 Sola's

History.com

...At the center of the discussion was the question—***How Does One Get Right with God?***

-- Today... '***Sola Scriptura***'—meaning "***Scripture Alone***"

*"Scripture Alone" did not mean that no other teachings were valid or helpful or influential ...it meant that Scripture Alone had the highest and final authority over what they believed and practiced.*

Why the 16<sup>th</sup> Century?

### The 'Trip Wire' of the Reformation—'INDULGENCES'

The Issue of Indulgences  
Dr. Eric Gritsch, *Christianity Today*

***Luther & the "Scala Santa" —"Is it even so?"***

- This practice raised the question of—***WHO Says This is True? ...Who has the Authority?***

*"...The formal issue, which was the underlying issue, the issue that was not in the limelight but nevertheless was at the center of the whole dispute, was the question of authority, specifically the question of the authority of Scripture."  
R.C. Sproul, "Are We Together", p. 11*

## The Origins of AUTHORITY & the Mystery of AUTHORITY

### Scripture's Unique Status & Claim

**Luke 24:27** And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

**Acts 17:2** And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures,

**1 Cor 15:3-4** For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

**- The Pattern of Scripture's Locating 'Authority' is to Look to Scripture!...**

**2 Peter 1:16-21** For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup> For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," <sup>18</sup> we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. <sup>19</sup> And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, 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, <sup>20</sup> knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup> 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.

**- This is an Interesting Hierarchy of "Ideas/Beliefs":**

v. 16 ... **'cleverly devised myths'**—

v. 16 ... **'eyewitness' accounts**—

v. 19 ... **'something more sure, the prophetic word'**

v. 19-21 ... **'you will do well to pay attention to Scripture!'**

...because of the Unique Quality of their Origin:

- Scripture is NOT the Thought/Interpretation of Man!
- Scripture is NOT created by human production or reasoning or application or initiative
- Scripture is uniquely Given By God, as men are 'carried along by the Holy Spirit'

2 **Tim 3:15-17** from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

v. 15 ...testifies to the 'uniqueness of Scripture'—'**Sacred writings**'

v. 16 ...the unique origin of Scripture—"**God breathed**"

v. 16 ...the purpose & mandate assigned to Scripture—

The Ideas of Men Beyond Scripture (From whence comes 'other authority'?)

- **At some point—other Thoughts & Ideas will be added to Scripture**  
**...How Should Those be Viewed?**

The History of Papal Authority & Infallibility:

- **The 5<sup>th</sup> Century to 14<sup>th</sup> Century**

**Matthew Barrett, "God's Word Alone", p. 47**

- **The 15<sup>th</sup> Century**— The Great Western Schism (1378-1417), there were 3 people claiming to be pope simultaneously ...The Council of Constance from 1414-1418
- **This "Development" is really important to understand the Mindset of the Reformers who would Protest**

## **“TRADITION” Comes in Many Shapes and Sizes**

*“In the late medieval period we begin to see signs of another view, what we can call ‘Tradition 2’. Tradition 2 is the view that divine revelation has not one but two sources: Scripture and ecclesiastical Tradition... This view holds the position that Scripture is not sufficient in and of itself, nor the sole infallible authority and source of divine revelation. ...Where Scripture was ambiguous, silent, or even deficient, the second source of revelation (Tradition) spoke with clarity and authority even though it was an unwritten tradition that was in view.”* **Matthew Barrett**, *“God’s Word Alone”*, p. 46

— Today, we are not safe from this tendency and practice, when we vest ‘viewpoints, ideas, culture, personality tendencies, and religious traditions’ with authority and begin to treat people like they’ve violated God’s Word if they don’t believe or practice these ‘ways or opinions’.

*...“If you don’t speak in tongues, you’re not baptized in the Holy Spirit”*

*... “KJV Only Beliefs” —*

*... “Length of Hair” ... “Women wearing Pants or Jewelry or Make-up or Coloring their Hair” ... “Dating vs Courtship vs Arranged Marriages” ... “Dry Counties” ... “Secular vs Sacred Labels”*

*...We should NOT be binding people’s conscience to things that the Bible has not mandated or spoken to with authority!—We should preach the Bible and Trust the Holy Spirit in these areas!—That’s ‘Sola Scriptura’ in modern everyday spaces!*

*— Often, where the Bible is silent or ambiguous or ‘quiet’—we insert a human opinion and then OBLIGATE others to live according to that! We are vesting authority in Man-Made Precepts ...rather than just saying, ‘Well the Bible isn’t really detailed or clear on that...’*