

Sola Scriptura

Intro

Continuing with the Solas

Sola fide, Sola scriptura, Sola gratia, Sola Christo and Soli Deo Glory

Today we are looking at the Sola Scriptura - or by scripture alone

Someone commented that they are sola / alone answers on different questions

Sola Fida - In what way are we saved

Sola Scriptura - by which do we know what to believe

The Reformation stated not by the tradition, but alone by reading the Bible

But as we will see, it is not always that black and white either

History of the Bible

It goes too far here to give a concise history of the Bible

Suffice to say it has quite a development

The scriptures in Judaism contained of scrolls.

Not every synagogue would have full cabinet

Key: The Five books of the Torah, The Histories and the Prophets and the Psalms

Greek translation of Hebrew Bible

Septuagint - 72 Translators

This is what the Bible was in Paul/Peter's time.

Beyond the what mainstream Rabbinical Judaism

It was the OT in the early church

Added to that came the gospels and the letters & revelations

This is the Bible known by the RC

Luther/Reformation

Bible was reviewed and over time the deuterocanonical works were removed by the Reformers

Luther wanted to remove more!

He did not think that Hebrews, James and Jude should not belong

Others disagreed - fortunately

We agree that the Bible contains God's word

In 66 books

Spanning various centuries

Written by many people, some known, some unknown, some disputed

But the Church under the guidance of the HS decided that this is the Word of God

Some documented in time, some documenting history, others documenting God's word for the future!

Important: HS!

Not only history and tradition

But the influence of God in this process

Which looking back looks a bit messy

In our eyes!

HS influenced tradition and history to produce the Bible

2 Tim 3:10-17

What does the Bible say about the bible?

Key vs for Reformation:

v16: All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

But this sits in the context of L

Paul reminding Timothy of what he

Paul reminding Timothy of what he taught - not only scripture

Not only what he taught, but how he lived:

my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, suffering.

What happened to him:

in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endure

It is almost as Paul urges Timothy to look at Paul's life as living scripture

Is that why we have now Acts and many of the letters of Paul

As they relate this to us over the generations

Scripture or Church Tradition

Non reformation churches would argue that Timothy became a disciple not only through scripture, but also through the teaching and life of Paul and therefore the Church

Two points to consider

1. Paul & Timothy only had the Hebrew and Greek translated Old Testament

The New Testament was being written, but not yet recognised as Bible

Only in 3rd Century

2. Until the reformation most people could not read or write

The Church tradition was the only source of scripture for most people

Basis of the distortion of teaching

Or a general moving away for the Holy Spirit in reading and teaching by the church

As it became too powerful and institutionalised?

But even today, we need a mixture between scripture and a faith community that interpretes it for its time!

As Paul had to do

As Timothy had to do

As Luther had to do

As every Christian has to do!

Many books are written about the Bible.

I have more books about the Bible then the Bibles itself

I have more books that inform me of Christian Life as a whole, inspired by the Bible

That's why we have sermons in Church

To explain the Bible to us for our situation today

And that can cause differences in explanation - as even Peter already recognised

2 Peter 3:13-18

In the context of the need to

in the context of the need to
make every effort to be found
spotless, blameless and at peace
with Christ

Sola Fide, but also running the race

Peter reminds his readers that
The Lord is patient with us.

So we have time to get it right!

And almost as a side note, he
touches on a dispute in
interpretation of Paul's letters!

He stresses that his (Peter's) message
is the same as Paul's

he writes in the same way (consistently)
speaking of these matters

And he validates therefore Paul and his
letters

But:

But sometimes they are hard to understand
leading to ignorant and instable people to
distort his message

And not only his letters but the while of
scripture (i.e. the Old Testament too!)

He therefore warns them to be on
their guard and test what people say

Test how - test by the Holy Spirit

In faith community

The Word of God

The danger is when the Word of God is explained by those who are

Not of God

Not so wise and knowledgeable

Understand how they need to read the scriptures in the times that they are written

How to apply this for today

But mainly that they are influenced by God's spirit

We need to read the Bible as we hear from God!

In Prayer

I like to end with some quotes from the Lectio365 devotions that I do know every morning

First on Jesus

Hebrews 1:1-2 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

What this means is that hearing God begins and ends with meeting Jesus. We understand the Bible in the light of Christ, and not the other way around

Every other way in which God communicates - and in which I may therefore hear him speak - comes through Jesus and points back to him. Nothing can replace, and nothing matters more, than a personal encounter with Jesus

Secondly on prayer: talking to Jesus

Prayer was never meant to be a monologue' writes Mark Batterson, 'it was meant to be dialogue.

Think of Scripture as God's part of the script; prayer is our part.

Scripture is God's way of initiating a conversation; prayer is our response.

The paradigm shift happens when you realise that the Bible was not meant to be read through; the Bible was meant to be **prayed** through.

And if you pray through it , you will never run out of things to talk about.'

So how do we read the Bible

As a interesting or boring historical document?

As an instruction manual that you will need to keep to, as other wise things will be broken or we will be broken?

Or as God's initiation of his

conversation with us.

He speaks to us to the Bible

We believe that

But do we really read the Bible like that

As God's conversation with us

That we have to pray through

That we have to sometimes struggle with in prayer

if we do not understand

or if we do not want to understand

as that means changing our live or attitude

Do we read the bible knowing that when we do, we meet with Jesus?

And that we therefore need the HS to hear him speak to us?

Try it out - try praying (about) the Bible verses you read.

Ending prayer, after 1 Tim
3:10-17

10 We, Lord, know all about Paul's teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, 11 persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. We can

read about it in your Bible. We rejoice that you rescued Paul from all of them.

12 We realise that, in fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

14 But Lord, we want to continue in what we have learned and have become convinced of this, because we know those who have taught us, 15 and we want to continue to know more of the scriptures, which are able to make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

16 We recognise that all Scripture is filled with your breath or Spirit and is therefore useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that we, servants of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Amen