

Sola Scriptura: Scripture Alone Study Guide

Five Solas Biblical Study

While this study is about _____, it is not just about _____

- but also how we are to hold fast to the truths given to us from God about Salvation.
- Every _____, including ours, need to not only know the truths God has given us
- But also stand firm upon truths.
- Not only acknowledge the truths but be able to defend the truths.
- This is not just the responsibility of the pastor, the evangelist, or the apologist, but the responsibility of the _____.

So, what are the 5 Solas of the Reformation and what on earth is a Sola anyway?

- The 5 Solas are as follows: Sola Scriptura, Solus Christus, Sola Fide, Sola Gratia, Soli Deo Gloria
- These are _____ phrases: Sola in _____ is translated into the English as the word _____.
- Salvation is by grace _____ (sola gratia), through faith _____ (sola fide), in Christ _____ (solus Christus), based on Scripture _____ (sola scriptura), and for the glory of God _____ (soli Deo gloria).

The Solas come to us through Church History in the _____ during the reformation.

- The _____ reformation came about through the _____ of the Roman Catholic Church.
- A protestant is someone who is making a public declaration against something he opposes.
- Therefore, the Protestant reformation was protesting all of the issues of the Roman Catholic Church, and there were a lot of them.

1 John 4:1 (ESV)

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

When it comes to the protestant movement:

- You are either Catholic, or you are _____ Catholicism.
- Lutheran, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Methodist, Baptist, Congregationalist, and more are all Christian _____.
- Thus in _____ against the Catholic Church.

Discussion Point #1

For what reasons do we or others protest today?

- **Do you think protesting is a good thing or a bad thing?**
- **What are a couple of protests that have happened recently and how do you feel about them?**

For us to understand why the 5 Solas made their way into the protestant reformation we need to understand what was happening.

1.) The church prevented the Bible from being translated into the common language of a community: _____.

2.) The Catholic Church taught that only the church could understand and interpret the Bible: _____

3.) In order to read the Bible you must be able to read Latin, but even if you could read Latin, The Catholic Church that prevented people from being able to read the Bible on their own: _____

4.) Not being able to read the Bible meant that you were not able to test the Pope and the Priests to make sure what was being said was truly the Words of God:

What resulted from this was all sorts of heresies, there were not biblical, in which the church used to manipulate people.

- Martin Luther was an Augustinian _____ in the Catholic Church who struggled greatly with reconciling the churches practices

One of His greatest issues, though He had ___ issues in total, was the sale of _____.

- The church came up with a concept _____ known in the Bible called Purgatory:
- Where someone would spend an undisclosed amount of time in order to purify themselves so they could go to heaven.
- To fix this problem, they would sell _____ which would free a loved one from _____ based on the amount of money they gave.

The issue is a _____ issue.

Today we begin with Sola Scriptura or _____ Alone.

So, much of these problems would be fixed if the Catholic church would be willing to be reformed back to Scripture.

- Or to Scripture Alone.
- Sola Scriptura is the ultimate or supreme authority over the church and the life of the believer.

The London Baptist Confession of 1689 states: The Holy Scriptures are the _____ sufficient, certain, and infallible standard of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience. The light of nature and the works of creation and providence so clearly demonstrate the goodness, wisdom, and power of God that people are left without excuse; however, these demonstrations are not sufficient to give the knowledge of God and his will that is necessary for salvation. Therefore, the Lord was pleased at different times and in various ways to reveal himself and to declare his will to his church. To preserve and propagate the truth better and to establish and comfort the church with greater certainty against the corruption of the flesh and the malice of Satan and the world, the Lord put this revelation completely in writing. Therefore, the _____ are absolutely necessary, because God's former ways of revealing his will to his people have now ceased.

2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV)

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness

These words that are in these books are not just inspired by _____, they are exhaled by _____.

- The same power that breathed into Adam to first give him life is the same power that breathed into the _____.

We also see that the Bible is good and profitable for _____, reproof, correction, and _____ in righteousness.

- The Bible is what makes us complete.
- Not Tradition, not the pope, not anything from Man, but everything from God.

2 Peter 1:20–21 (ESV)

knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 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.

So, the Scripture is true because it wasn't _____ who wrote it, though man physically put ink to paper, it was _____ who spoke by the _____ through man, to bring forth this divine and Holy book.

1 Corinthians 4:6 (ESV)

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 _____ what is inspired and God breathed.

Acts 17:11 (ESV)

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.

The revelation that we have today must come from God's Word because it is God's _____ that now tells us of Jesus.

Hebrews 1:1-2 (ESV)

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

Revelation came from Abraham, Moses, Kings, and the Prophets as God spoke to them.

- But in these last days, God now speaks to us through _____.
- We _____ of Jesus, _____ of Jesus, _____ of Jesus, as the Apostles and those around the apostles _____ Jesus...
- through the _____ and the letters.
- Thus we need nothing else, ___ prophet, ___ apostle, ___ pope, and ___ tradition.

Sola scriptura does not nullify the concept of church traditions. Rather, *sola scriptura* gives us a solid foundation on which to base church traditions.

- If a tradition lines up with Scripture we should _____ it.
- If a tradition contradicts Scripture then we must _____ it.

2 Thessalonians 2:15 (ESV)

So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.

As you can see, it must still be rooted in God's Word.

- We do not have the _____ talking to us any more but we do have their letters and writings.

Paul not only gives us the understanding from Himself to listen to, but also what not to listen to:

Colossians 2:8 (ESV)

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

We must be on guard and we must protect our _____ and _____ because the world is full of people who are trying to actively deceive us.

- There are those that would try to give us other revelation and put it on par with Scripture.
- It is not that there is not other revelation from God, but that there is not revelation from God on par with Scripture.

Romans 1:19–20 (ESV)

For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Here Paul tells us that we have revelation of who God is in the creation that God has made.

- This is _____ revelation for us to know that God exists.
- This is _____ revelation to make us all guilty for rejecting God.
- This is _____ revelation to leave us without excuse.

The problem? While this is true, it is not _____ to save us.

- This is where we _____ the Bible or have someone proclaim the Bible.
- It is in this revelation that we _____ of Jesus.
- It is in _____ revelation that we _____ of the Gospel.
- Either by reading it ourselves or having it proclaimed to us by another.

This is actually our command as _____ and the great commission.

Matthew 28:18–20 (ESV)

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

The way we, as believers 2000 years later, carry out this commission: Is by teaching God’s _____.

2 Timothy 4:2 (ESV)

preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

John 20:30–31 (ESV)

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

What we need to know _____ and be known by _____ is recorded for us.

- We do not need to go to any other books, teachers, or ideas to have Salvation and life, we only must go to God's Word.
- It is in God's Word that it points us to Jesus and points us to our meaning and purpose in this life.

Sola Scriptura is the building _____ on which every doctrine and every belief in the Christian is made known.

- _____ theology is built upon the Word of God.
- From _____ all theological principles are put together.

Discussion Point #2

In what ways is Sola Scriptura needed today?

- **Are there any religious groups that are Christian that have gone away from Scripture Alone?**

Frequent Objections

A frequent objection to the concept of sola scriptura is the fact that the canon of the Bible was not officially agreed upon for at least 250 years after the church was founded.

- While this is true, all of those books were already written and being copied and passed around and taught from during this time.
- It was not that these were not available until _____ years later, but they were not all compiled together into one volume until then.
- Thus the truths contained within were _____ kept from God's people even though they were not in one specific place.

Another objection is the Scriptures were not available to the masses for over 1500 years after the church was founded. How, then, were early Christians to use sola scriptura, when they did not even have the full Scriptures?

- This is the _____ of the church not the fault of Sola Scriptura.
- While the printing press was still a ways off and would be very expensive to translate and _____ the Scriptures
- This very much should have been a major role of the _____ to undertake.

- Because the church _____ to do this does not mean that Sola Scriptura fails, but that the church failed.
- We have since _____ this where we can get the Bible for free on our phones in many translations and languages.
- Work still needs to be done and we have more to do, but much has been done and people all over the world in hundreds of languages can now read the Bible.
- Scripture's _____ is not based on its availability. Scripture's _____ is universal because it is God's Word.

What about the high illiteracy rates and that many people could not read. How is Sola Scriptura possible with this issue?

- Again the answer is in the _____ and not in God's Word.
- The _____ church has in the last few hundred years been a leader in education and helping people to be able to read and learn the Scriptures.
- The _____ church has made confessions and catechisms to help teach _____ the truth of God's Word.

Another objection is this: *It is too hard to understand.*

The London Baptist Confessional of 1689 1.7 states: Some things in Scripture are clearer than others, and some people understand the teachings more clearly than others. However, the things that must be known, believed, and obeyed for salvation are so clearly set forth and explained in one part of Scripture or another that both the educated and uneducated may achieve a sufficient understanding of them by properly using ordinary measures.

- This means that if we truly _____ to know and are looking through Scripture, we can find the answers very easily, and clearly even if we are not trained on the Bible.
- The Book of _____ is regularly given to those seeking to know God as it is easy to understand and beautifully displays the Gospel.
- With that said, if someone wants to learn, it is not difficult for one to join a church and be _____.

Sola Scriptura is a 16th Century idea and doesn't stand with church History.

Basil, On the Holy Spirit written in the 4th century said "But we are not _____ simply because this is the tradition of the Fathers. What is important is that the Fathers followed the meaning of Scripture."

Augustine, on the unity of the church, in the 5th century "Whoever dissents from the sacred Scriptures, even if they are found in all places in which the church is designated, are not the _____."

Sola Scriptura is not in the Bible, thus it is a self-refuting doctrine since this isn't taught in Scripture.

While this is correct in that it doesn't specifically say "_____", but we also are not given any other authority outside of the authority the Bible claims for itself.

- If we are to follow traditions and a Pope, wouldn't the Bible tell us this and agree with this?

Matthew 15:3 (ESV)

He answered them, "And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?"

Matthew 15:6 (ESV)

So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God.

Here we see _____ rebuking the Pharisees for holding their traditions _____ that of Scripture.

- Which is exactly what we see those in the _____ doing.
- Our goal is to _____ and _____ the meaning of the text in companion with the Holy Spirit.
- Scripture will not _____ itself and Scripture can be rightly understood.

The Catholic Church gave us the Bible, we wouldn't have the Bible or know what should be in the Bible if it wasn't for the Catholic Church.

One Protestant said that Newton no more gave us _____ than the Catholic Church gave us the _____.

- Just because Newton discovered the basis for Gravity doesn't mean he is gravity.
- Gavin Ortland gives a helpful illustration: A child walking to school with a note from his mom for the principal, a bully comes along and rips up the note. The teacher was able to put it back together. But does the teacher have authority of the note, or does the mom? Of course the teaching piecing it together doesn't give the note the authority, it is the Mom.

Final Thoughts:

Scripture Alone had to be the battle cry of the _____ because through Scripture _____ will we find the truth that God has laid out for us to know Him and live for Him.

- There is no _____ revelation after the last Apostle died.
- So, if we are going to know God and be known by God, the Bible is God's _____ on His revelation.
- It is not up to us to decide how God chooses to reveal Himself it is only up to us whether we _____ God's revelation or _____ against God's revelation.