

Scripture Readings: 2 Tim. 3: & 2 Peter 1:12-21

Singing: 415:1-2 – 42:1-4 – 338:1-4 – 21:1-4

SOLA SCRIPTURA: SCRIPTURE ALONE!

A. Our culture is adrift because we are ‘destroying the foundation’

B. Purpose of sermon: *strengthen our view of absolute authority of Bible*

1. Christianity is under assault from various angles

a. the ‘immoral world’

b. the ‘intellectual world’

c. the ‘spiritualist world’

2. Spiritual life will suffer if our souls aren’t anchored in the Word

*Let thy mercies come also unto me, O LORD, even thy salvation, **according to thy Word.** So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I trust in **thy Word** (Ps. 119:41-42)*

The certainty of Gospel: <i>Because it is the Inspired Word of God</i>
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A. How do you know all this? (Catechism question 19)

1. Those are important questions to ask (1 John 4:1-2)

B. Scripture bears testimony to its *uniqueness* : 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:16-21

1. **all** Scripture is inspired : *every single word of 66 books in **original***

2. all Scripture is given by inspiration of God

a. definition of ‘inspiration’

b. meaning of ‘no prophecy of Scripture is of private interpretation’

3. Nothing is more important than this *Sola Scriptura*

a. Christianity is the religion of a **divinely inspired** Book (Ps. 11:3)

b. Satan has from the beginning concentrated all efforts on the Word

• Ps. 119:89 and Matthew 24:35 are proven truths!

C. But how do we know that ‘this self-testimony’ is true?

1. Is there any book to perennially fresh to all generations as the Bible?

a. every fresh reading of the same chapters bring new food!

2. Is there any book making predictions that have come through?
 - a. the fulfillment of predictive prophecy is *irrevocable testimony*
 - b. the Bible contains over 2000 predictive prophecies in OT
3. Is there any book so unified even though so many authors?
 - a. manner in which written argues against its unity in teaching
 - b. yet despite all the differences in the authors details, the Book breathes unity of thought and teaching
 - even more beautiful is how *revelation progresses* in details while none ever reverse, contradicts, recalls or cancels a former writing
4. Is there any book so universal and adapted to needs of mankind?
5. Is there any book as historically accurate and honest as the Bible?
6. Is there any book so powerful to transform corrupt nations/societies?
 - a. Bible teachings have affected every department of life for good
 - b. Holy Scripture has done more to free the oppressed – civilize heathen than all human forces combined

Question: How firmly do you believe that all Scripture is *God's Words*?

THOUGHTS ON THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE

The faith will totter if the authority of the Holy Scriptures loses its hold on men. We must surrender ourselves to the authority of Holy Scripture, for it can neither mislead nor be misled. (Augustine)

The Word of God is above the church and church men. (Thomas Cranmer)

The truly wise man is he who always believes the Bible against the opinion of any man. (Torrey)

The Biblical writers invented not their words themselves, suited to the things that they learned, but only expressed the words they received from God. (John Owen)