

Theme: The Bible is the only infallible and inerrant rule of faith, sufficient for salvation and holiness. Other creeds and confessions may be helpful summaries, but must be tested by Scripture, which is the final authority.

I. Intro – Sola Scriptura

- A. Five sola's of Reformation
- B. Sola Scriptura & sufficiency of Scripture
- C. Theme statement as definition
- D. Sola Scriptura - is it true
- E. What about tradition, creeds, catechisms?

II. The Centrality of Scripture

- A. Paul's instructions to Timothy (2 Tim 3:14-17)
 - 1. Continue in what you were taught (v14)
 - 2. What you were taught - Scripture (v15)
 - 3. Scripture makes you wise for salvation (v15)
 - 4. Scripture produces faith in Christ (v15)
 - 5. Scripture is God's Word (v16)
 - 6. Scripture is useful to train us (v16)
 - 7. Scripture thoroughly equips us (v17)
- B. Paul's supreme confidence in God's Word
 - 1. Able to bring us to Christ
 - 2. Able to cause us to grow in Christ

- 3. Doctrine of sufficiency of Scripture

III. Sufficiency of Scripture

- A. Definition - Grudem
- B. At each stage - progressive revelation
 - 1. God did not reveal all at once
 - 2. Important to remember stages of RH
 - 3. Note in catechism 2 major sections
 - 4. Note law, history, poetry, prophets, etc
 - 5. Proper hermeneutics - BRCC SOF
- C. Now complete - whole story has been told
 - 1. All Scripture focus on Christ (2 Tim 3:15; Lk 24:27, 44; BRCC)
 - 2. With Gospels, Acts, Epistles story complete
- D. Sufficient for salvation, trust, obedience
 - 1. Word alone produces faith (v15; Rom 10:17)
 - 2. Word alone sufficient to do this (2 Tim 3:16-17)
 - 3. Word is to be obeyed! (2 Tim 3:16; BRCC)
 - 4. Where Word is silent - liberty

IV. Scripture and Tradition

- A. Sola Scriptura - Scripture alone final rule
 - 1. BRCC SOF

2. Acts 17:11; Isa 8:20; Mark 7:7 (Isa 29:13)

3. All must be judged by Scripture

B. What about tradition, creeds, catechisms, SOF?

1. These can undermine God's Word

a. Matt 15:3-9

b. These traditions undermined Word

2. These can help us understand God's Word

a. 1 Cor 11:2 ESV - maintained traditions

b. 2 Thess 2:15 - traditions taught

c. 'Traditions' - summary of Scripture

3. Key - point us back to Scripture

a. Always subservient to Word

b. But can summarize faith helpfully

c. Tradition vs. traditionalism

b. Narcissism - everything about me vs God's glory

c. Radical individualism - community critical

d. Legalism in Church - adding to Scripture

4. Scripture alone is final authority

B. Are we soaking in the Word?

1. We can not afford to miss it in this area!

2. See teaching on letting Word dwell richly

3. Catechism, statement of faith, creeds can help

4. Let them point you to Word - study & grow

The Sufficiency of Scripture

2 Timothy 3:14-17

Psalm 119:89-96

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How Firm A Foundation

Numbers 6

V. Applying the Word

A. Do we see Scripture alone is the final authority?

1. RC, EO - Scripture+Tradition+Church

2. This undermines the unique authority of Scripture

3. Do we have other authorities equal to Scripture?

a. freedom - do what I want vs. line up w/ creation

The sufficiency of Scripture means that Scripture contained all the words of God He intended for His people to have at each stage of redemptive history, and that it now contains all the words of God we need for salvation, for trusting Him perfectly, and for obeying Him perfectly. Grudem, Page 127

Every believer is responsible to study the Scripture, interpreting each passage according to context, purpose, and the entire scope of biblical revelation, - BRCC SOF

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. Luke 24:27

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Luke 24:44

It is the essential and infallible record of God's revelation of Himself to mankind, leading us to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. - BRCC

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. Romans 10:17

Every believer is responsible to study the Scripture, interpreting each passage according to context, purpose, and the entire scope of biblical revelation, and **to diligently apply the standards of Scripture to their individual lives in reverent obedience to the Lord, Who speaks through the Scripture in living power.** BRCC

The Scripture is our final, absolute authority, the only infallible rule of faith and practice for individual believers and for the Church. The Scripture is not to be added to, detracted from, or changed by later tradition or extra-biblical revelation. Every doctrinal formulation or pronouncement by any individual or council, whether of creed, confession, theology, or experience must be put to the test of the full counsel of God as revealed in Holy Scripture. BRCC

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. Acts 17:11

To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn. Isaiah 8:20

They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men. Mark 7:7 (quoting Isaiah 29:13)

Jesus replied, "And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? 4 For God said, 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.' 5 But you say that if a man says to his father or mother, 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is a gift devoted to God,' 6 he is not to 'honor his father' with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. 7 You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: 8 " 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 9 They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.'" Matthew 15:3-9

Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you. 1 Corinthians 11:2 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. 2 Thessalonians 2:15 ESV