

Sola Scriptura

Read the following passage together – 2 Timothy 3:10-17

Get Started

1. How do you respond to authority? Are you a rebel? Or are you generally compliant? Does the source of the authority make a difference? If so, how?
2. What is your favourite Bible verse (or two)? Why is this verse important to you?

About the Passage

1. What areas of Paul's life does he ask Timothy to 'consider'? What was his intention in asking Timothy to do this?
2. What authority did Paul have in relation to Timothy? (look back at 2 Timothy 1,2)
3. What are some of the core foundations in Timothy's life? (vs 14, 15)
4. What does Paul say about the origin and purpose of Scripture?

Sermon Talking Points

The Reformers believed that Scripture alone was the only authoritative source for revelation and, therefore, the Scripture alone was the primary source available for instruction on all matters of faith and practice. They believed that tradition, while valuable, could be misleading and fallible. In short, they rejected the idea that the Church needed a second infallible source of revelation (Tradition) along with an infallible interpreter (Magisterium) that would tell them what to believe. The Scriptures needed to be in the hands of every person so that people could wrestle with and build a theology that was truly their own.

1. What is the danger of placing scripture in the hands of every person? Is this danger worth it?
2. There were 8,973 Protestant Denominations as of 2000. Some people inflate this number to 33,000! Some sources blame *Sola Scriptura* for the fracturing of the church into so many pieces. How do you respond to this accusation? Does the number of denominations trouble you?
3. How do we protect our church from some of the 'dangers' of *Sola Scriptura*?

Apply This

1. How do we read the Scriptures with confidence? In community? Toward Christ?
2. What have you found most helpful in reading the Bible?
3. What steps might we need to take to ensure that our church remains under the authority of Scripture?