

**SOLA SCRIPTURA!: The Protestant Position on the Bible**, edited by Don Kistler, General Editor, Soli Deo Gloria Pubns, Orlando, FL: 1997. (24 Quotes selected by Doug Nichols)

*Preface, by Dr. Bruce Bickel, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Soli Deo Gloria.*

### **1. God Provides All the Knowledge We Need**

The revelation of the divine mind and will which we have in sola Scriptura is dependent upon revelation from God Himself. It is an example of God's merciful kindness to fallen humanity that He has willed that all of the knowledge needful for a relationship with Him, and for correct worship of Him, should be provided by Him. [Page xi]

### **2. Unity Should Be Based on Truth**

Biblical unity must be based upon biblical truth, not human intentions. The example of unity we have in Scripture is the Trinity, which is in complete agreement on everything! Too often what passes for unity is really compromise. It is better to be divided by truth than united in error. [Page xi-xii]

### **3. Love Is Based on Truth**

Scripture is quite clear that love rejoices in truth! One cannot claim to love when one is not concerned about truth. The truth of Scripture must be the concern of one who truly loves. In an age where the absolute authority of the Scripture has been jettisoned for the sake of agreement at the expense of doctrinal distinctives, we must be reminded that for real unity to exist among Christians, it must be based upon the unadulterated truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ contained in the Scriptures alone. [Page xii]

*Foreword, by Michael Horton.*

### **4. Our Greatest Problem Is Our Sin Problem**

...the message of the cross assumes the terror of the Law, divine wrath towards sinners (and not just their sins), and the need for a substitutionary sacrifice to assuage divine justice. It assumes that the greatest problem facing humanity is original and actual sin—personal rebellion against a holy God—not stress, low self-esteem, and a failure to realize one's full potential. [Page xvii]

*Chapter 1, What Do We Mean by Sola Scriptura? by Dr. W. Robert Godfrey.*

## **5. We Must Look into the Word**

When the devil quoted the scripture, Jesus did not turn to some other authority. Rather Jesus said, "It is also written."

When the evil one or his representatives misuse the Bible, or imply that it is unclear, Jesus teaches us that we must look more deeply into the written Word, not away from it. [Page 9]

## **6. Scripture Is Our Standard**

We should not be surprised that there are divisions in the church. Christ and His apostles predicted that there would be. The Apostle Paul told us that such divisions are useful. He wrote:

"No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval" (I Corinthians 11:19). Differences should humble us and drive us back to the Scriptures to test all claims to truth. If we do not accept the Scriptures as our standard and judge, there is indeed no hope for unity. [Page 22-23]

*Chapter 2, Sola Scriptura and the Early Church by James White.*

## **7. We Are Thankful for God's Word.**

As with all elements of Christian truth, full examination will always support, uphold, and verify. Sola Scriptura has long been the rule of believing Christian people, even before it became necessary to use the specific terminology against later innovators who would usurp the Scriptures' supremacy in the church. It is the teaching of the Scriptures about themselves (2 Timothy 3: 16-17, Matthew 15:1-9, etc.), and we find a broad and deep witness to it in the early Fathers of the faith, as we have seen. Let us be thankful to God for the gracious gift of His sufficient and lifegiving Word, the Holy Scriptures. [Page 53-54]

*Chapter 4, The Authority of Scripture by Dr. John H. Armstrong.*

## **8. Submission to Scripture and the Lord Jesus Christ**

John R. W. Stott has correctly noted that submission to Christ's authority as Lord is "the only possible attitude of mind in which to approach our study of Jesus Christ and the authority of the Word of God." Stott adds that "belief in the authority of Scripture

and submission to the authority of Scripture are necessary consequences of our submission to the lordship of Jesus."

- John R. W. Stott, *The Authority of the Bible* (InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, Ill: 1974), p. 6-7. [Page 100]

## **9. Scripture Is the Basis of All Truth**

...the Scripture speaks of faith in the Word of God as a seal, or a confirmation, of God's utter truthfulness (cf. John 3:33). But isn't this a doctrine without practical consequence on the level of true authentication? Not at all. When we are assailed by doubts regarding the authority of the Scripture what are we to do? The answer of this truth is that we must have more profound intercourse with the Word of God itself. Here, as we read, meditate, and study the Scripture we are acted upon by God the Holy Spirit who bears witness to the supreme authority of the Word through the self-testimony of the Scripture.

Rome objects to this doctrine precisely because she continues to set the church and the papacy over the Scriptures. Moderns often seek to drive a wedge here as well, severing faith from the inherent authority of Scripture itself. [Page 128-129]

## **10. Lack of Reverence for God's Word**

It is a strange time indeed when believers know more about the Antichrist and the Beast in the Revelation than they do about justification, original sin, election, the cost of true discipleship and eternal judgment. Yet we are told repeatedly that these rather speculative prophetic matters are the "deep truths of the Scripture."

It is also a mark of our lack of reverence for the authority of Scripture that we have thousands of Christians sitting around in small groups asking one another, "What does that passage say to you?" I answer, "Who cares what it says to you?" It's as if Bible interpretation has become a matter of multiple choice. [Page 144]

*Chapter 5, The Sufficiency of the Written Word, Answering the Modern Roman Catholic Apologists, by John F. MacArthur, Jr.*

## **11. Everything Necessary Is in Scripture**

...there are many important questions on which Scripture is silent. Sola Scriptura makes no claim to the contrary. Nor does sola Scriptura claim that everything Jesus or the apostles ever taught is preserved in Scripture. It only means that everything

necessary, everything binding on our consciences, and everything God requires of us is given to us in Scripture.

Furthermore, we are forbidden to add to or take away from Scripture (cf. Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; Revelation 22:18-19). To do so is to lay on people's shoulders a burden that God him-self does not intend for them to bear (cf. Matthew 23:4).

Scripture is therefore the perfect and only standard of spiritual truth, revealing infallibly all that we must believe in order to be saved, and all that we must do in order to glorify God. That--no more, no less--is what sola Scriptura means. [Page 166]

## **12. Do Not Add to the Word of God**

No man, no church, no religious authority has any warrant from God to augment the inspired Word of Scripture with additional traditions, or to alter the plain sense of it by subjecting it to the rigors of a "traditional" meaning not found in the Word itself. To do so is clearly to invalidate the Word of God--and we know what our Lord thinks of that (Matthew 15:6-9). [Page 182]

*Chapter 6, Scripture and Tradition, The Bible and Tradition in Roman Catholicism, by Dr. Sinclair Ferguson.*

## **13. Often Tradition Contradicts Scripture**

There are important teachings in the Tradition which are not only additional to, but different from and contradictory to, the teaching of Sacred Scripture. These include the very doctrines which were the centerpiece of the Reformation struggle: the nature of justification; the importance of the principle of sola fide; the number of the sacraments; the sufficiency of the work of Christ, the effect of baptism, the presence of Christ at the Supper, the priesthood of all believers, the celibacy of the priesthood, the character and role of Mary, and much else. The more that Scripture is exegeted on its own terms the more it will become clear that in these areas Sacred Tradition does not merely add to Sacred Scripture, it contradicts it. And if it does, can it any longer be "sacred"? [Page 217]

## **14. The Roman Catholic Church Will Not Subscribe to *sola scriptura***

... it is now clearer than ever (Geiselmann) that the Roman Catholic Church cannot and will not subscribe to sola Scriptura. It must deny the sole sufficiency of the Bible. And, as the Reformers recognized, so long as Rome appeals to two sources, or even

tributaries, of revelation, the contents of Scripture and the substance of its own Tradition, it is inevitable that it will also withstand the message of Scripture and of the Reformation: sola gratia, solo Christo, sola fide. [Page 218]

*Chapter 7, The Transforming Power of Scripture, by Dr. Joel R. Beeke and Rev. Ray B. Lanning.*

### **15. The Bible Is Alive**

Believers discover with Luther that "the Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold on me. The Bible is not antique, or modern. It is eternal." [Page 232]

### **16. To Neglect the Word Is to Neglect the Lord**

If the Bible is to get into us, we must get into it. "The Bible that is falling apart," wrote Vance Havner, "usually belongs to someone who isn't." To neglect the Word is to neglect the Lord, but those who read Scripture, in Thomas Watson's words, "as a love-letter sent to you from God," shall experience its warming and transforming power. [page 240-241]

### **17. The Bible Transforms**

... If we agree that the Bible is a miraculous, powerful, living, inerrant, authoritative book, and the very breath of Jehovah, why is there not greater evidence of its transforming power in our congregations? Why do many remain so "untransformed" and worldly in conversation and action? No doubt a large part of the answer lies in their lack of rightly reading and hearing the Word, together with the onslaughts of Satan, an enticing world, and their own sinful hearts and undisciplined lives. After all, when television is watched more than the Word of God is searched and the newspaper is read more seriously than the Scriptures, what can one expect? [page 241-242]

### **18. A Faithful Preacher Uses to Word of God for His Congregation**

... Luther said, rather than preaching against straw men, the faithful preacher will bring the Word of God to bear on every pertinent truth which he knows his congregation (with its peculiar temptations) needs to have addressed. [page 246]

## **19. Christianity Should Be Felt, Enjoyed, and Applied**

" ... In one word, the principle on which experimental religion rests is simply this, that Christianity should not only be known, and understood, and believed, but also felt, and enjoyed, and practically applied." <sup>28</sup>

- Robert Bums, "Introduction" in *The Works of Thomas Halyburton* (London: Thomas Tegg, 1835), pp. xiv-xv. Page 250

## **20. A Holy Minister Is God's Weapon**

... Robert Murray M'Cheyne said it--Best: "A minister's life is the life of his ministry .... In great measure, according to the purity and perfections of the instrument, will be the success. It is not great talents that God blesses so much as likeness to Jesus. A holy minister is an awful weapon in the hand of God."<sup>32</sup>

Andrew A. Bonar, *Memoir and Remains of Robert Murray M'Cheyne* (London: Banner of Truth Trust, 1966), p. 282. [Page 253]

## **21. Faith Is a Gift**

"Faith," wrote Luther, "is not an achievement, it is a gift. Yet it comes only through the hearing and study of the Word." [Page 255]

## **22. Scripture Teaches Us the Best Ways**

John Flavel summarized it, He [said]: "The Scriptures teach us the best way of living, the noblest way of suffering, and the most comfortable way of dying." [Page 267]

## **23. The Word Conquers, Serves, and Rebuilds**

In Luther's words, "The world is conquered by the Word, and by the Word the church is served and rebuilt." [Page 270]

## **24. Today We Need to be Word-centered**

Today's Christians need to become intensely Word-centered in preaching, praying, worshipping, and living. In the words of Henry Smith:

We should set the Word of God always before us like a rule, and believe nothing but that which it teacheth, love nothing but that which it prescribeth, hate nothing but that which it forbiddeth, do nothing but that which it commandeth.<sup>43</sup>

- Henry Smith, "Food for NewBorn Babes," in *The Works of Henry Smith*, Vol. 1. (Edinburgh: James Nichol, 1866) p. 494. Page 271 Kistler, Rev. Don, General Editor. *Sola Scriptural The Protestant Position on the Bible*. Morgan, PA: Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1995.