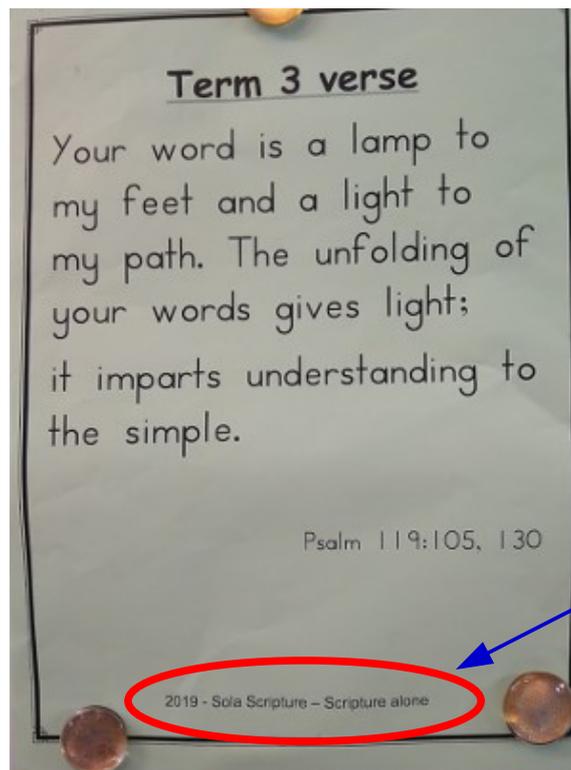


The End of ‘Sola Scriptura’

At a mid-year Grandparents’ Day this year I was attending an evangelical Christian school and noticed the following poster on the front of the classroom wall:



“*Sola Scriptura* – scripture alone” it notes at the bottom of the poster. This reminded me of my time teaching in another Christian school on Canberra in the early 2000s. Everything in our curriculum had to be Bible-based, which I found extremely difficult as I was teaching computer studies. There was great effort and diligence put into inserting scripture into the formal school documentation and into every lesson. In most areas of the school there were posters of scripture verses and the daily newsletter that was read to every student during home group contained a “Verse of the Day” from the Bible.

It seems that Christian schools and Christian homes must have Bible verses on display. The reason for this is the Latin expression, *sola scriptura*, which literally means ‘by scripture alone’. This is a theological doctrine held by some Christian denominations that the Christian scriptures are the sole source of authority for Christian faith and practice. It “rejects any original infallible authority other than the Bible. In this view, all subordinate authority is derived from the authority of the scriptures and is therefore subject to reform when compared to the teaching of the Bible. Church councils, preachers, Bible commentators, private revelation, or even a message allegedly from an angel or an apostle are not an original authority alongside the Bible in the *sola scriptura* approach...Some evangelical and Baptist denominations state the doctrine of *sola scriptura* more strongly: scripture is self-authenticating, clear (perspicuous) to the rational reader, its own interpreter (“Scripture interprets Scripture”), and sufficient of itself to be the final authority of Christian doctrine.”¹

What more do we need to now about this doctrine?

“One of the great slogans of the sixteenth-century Reformation against the Roman Catholic church was the Latin phrase sola scriptura, meaning the “Bible alone”. However, like any slogan that summarises something, it has been misunderstood. For example, sola scriptura does not mean that the Bible is the only authority for believers. What then did the phrase sola scriptura mean at the time of the Reformation? It was particularly used by Catholics like Albert Pighius (1490-1542) and Johann Dietenberger (c. 1475-1537) to encapsulate three points the reformers affirmed about the Bible.

¹ – en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sola_scriptura

Firstly, sola scriptura meant Scripture was the supreme authority over the church. It did not mean Scripture was the only authority. Luther, Calvin, and the other reformers used other authorities like reason and tradition. They developed arguments using logic (reason) and learned from the writings of past Christians (tradition) as they explored the Bible. Yet the Bible was the supreme authority that ruled reason and tradition because Scripture alone was infallible precisely because it is God's word. All other authorities (including church leadership) were fallible and must submit to Scripture...

The second aspect to sola scriptura was the sufficiency of Scripture. The Catholic church in the sixteenth century affirmed that Scripture needed supplementation with various rituals and beliefs not found in Scripture...

The third element of sola scriptura is the clarity of Scripture. This did not mean that all of Scripture was crystal clear to every Christian. It also did not signify that pastors and teachers were not needed to help laypeople understand Scripture.² The clarity of Scripture denoted that any person could read Scripture for themselves and discover the basic way of salvation.”³

Many Christian denominations teach that the Bible (both Old and New Testaments) is the only divinely inspired book and the only source of divinely revealed knowledge. Even Charismatics and Pentecostals place the Bible above prophecy. When I was in one such group and was being trained to prophesy it was the decree of the senior pastor that any prophetic word that we gave had to include a scripture verse. The inference was that any ‘word’ that didn’t have a verse was substandard and could be ignored by the recipient.

I was taught that God holds his word (the Bible) as more significant than his name. I was quoted this:

Psalm 138:2 (NKJV) – *For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.*

This was their ‘proof’ that the Bible is the most significant thing to God, even more important than his name which in ancient times was the epitome of a person. But...we know that Bible isn’t “The Word of God”⁴ (Jesus was⁵). Also, this reference in Psalms doesn’t necessarily mean what I was told that it meant because other English versions translate it differently (it can’t have a fixed meaning):

- ISV – “for you have done great things to carry out your word consistent with your name.”
- NET – “for you have exalted your promise above the entire sky.”
- WEB – “for you have exalted your Name and your Word above all.”
- TLB – “for your promises are backed by all the honor of your name.”
- TPT – “For the promises of your word and the fame of your name have been magnified above all else!”

I was also given this ‘indisputable’ reference to further convince me to learn Bible passages because God wanted us to study the Bible:

2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV) – *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

But...this verse can mean any of the following which show it has nothing to do with studying the Bible:

- TPT – “Always be eager to present yourself before God as a perfect and mature minister, without shame, as one who correctly explains the Word of Truth.”
- NIV – “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

So, where does the expression *sola scriptura* come from and what is its importance in the Kingdom?

Being Latin, one would expect it to have originated in the Catholic system. However, it didn’t, because

2 – Ephesians 4:11-12

3 – Marty Foord (25/8/2019) “The Real Meaning of Sola Scriptura” au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-real-meaning-of-sola-scriptura

4 – canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/The-Word-of-God-is-What-the-Spirit-Gives-Us-to-Speak.pdf

5 – John 1:1

Roman Catholic doctrine has church dogma and scripture at the same level of authority. In fact, from history, papal edicts and statements by bishops and archbishops has very often countermanded the clear understanding of scripture.

Sola Scriptura came into existence in the 16th Century (see above) as a rebuttal by the Reformation to the power of the Pope and Roman Catholicism to control their lives. This control was over and above what was considered God's will, so ascribing to the written accounts in the Bible of what the Spirit was saying in the past was used to make Catholic pronouncements null and void.

It should be noted that Calvin and Luther "did not argue that Scripture was against tradition, but the tradition had come to be equated with the "traditions" of medieval Christianity and not the tradition of the Church fathers. The Catholic Church was claiming authority not on the basis of Scripture and tradition, but "by virtue of the church's claim to the office of authority".⁶

Although the 3 elements of *sola scriptura* (see the quote above) were valid in the expression's early use as a foundational theology, it has morphed into something different today. Having been in the evangelical, Charismatics and Pentecostals systems over that past 70 years I have a clear understanding of weight of *sola scriptura* these days. It is now the mantra of a vast number of Christians that everything must come from the Bible. There are 2 reasons for this: (1) Those who are not Spirit-filled can't hear from God so the Bible is their infallible source of wisdom, knowledge and understanding; (2) Those who are Spirit-filled must have everything confirmed by the Bible.

The Bible is often treated as "Jesus in print" by some and they treat this book like it is holy, rather than believing that it contains holy scripture. Some hold to the tenet that having the Bible open at night keeps the devil away. Some even write bible verses on paper and stick them in cracks and crevasses around their house to ward off the devil. The majority of Christians have framed Bible verses around their homes to encourage themselves through adversity.

The Bible is only a foundational platform to build on. It's not the 'be all and end all' of our knowledge of the Kingdom and things of the spirit realm. Life in the Kingdom is not about being able to quote scriptures to others, it's being about Father's business which is the restoration of all things.

Where does that put us today as maturing sons wanting to grow spiritually in the Kingdom?

Most importantly, we need to have the wisdom, knowledge, understanding and discernment that only comes from the King. Our knowledge should come from the Spirit straight from the throne of the King. The same goes for insight into the decisions we are to make so we align ourselves with the Trinity's plans. This is why personal spiritual hearing is critical and why prophecy is essential for the ekklesia to keep on track.

Has our King told us anything about *sola scriptura* that we need to take notice of?

Mike Parsons was shown by Father that he didn't have "the mind of Christ"⁷ despite the Bible stating that we do.⁸ In an encounter with God he was told that he needed to get rid of *sola scriptura* as it contributed to the dysfunctioning of his mind which caused him not to be able to think like a son is supposed to think:

"Son, walk with Me" [Father said].

We walked again within the recesses of my mind. "Son, look at the dysfunction of the broken paths. Look at the mindsets that are like obstructions blocking the pathways. Look at the rigid networks conforming and framing the pathways within your mind. Now see fluidity and beauty of the pathways that can be

6 – Richard L Wilson (20-10-2012) "Problems with Sola Scriptura" www.academia.edu/10054786/Problems_with_Sola_Scriptura

7 – 1 Corinthians 2:16

8 – Read: "Do We Have the Mind of Christ?" canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Do-We-Have-the-Mind-of-Christ.pdf

& "Renewing Our Minds" canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Renewing-Our-Minds.pdf

& "Transforming Our Minds" canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Transforming-Our-Minds.pdf

formed by your renewed mind linked to Mine."

I saw the comparison. I saw the simplicity of the truth of the 'now' possibilities and compared it to the complex construct built from the interpretations of truth and reality that come from religion and culture.

"Son, let Me renew your mind to a new level, open up your mind to Me. Let the truth remove the cages constructed by following the pathways of the knowledge of good and evil.

I saw a framework, a construction with pillars holding it up and a grid or series of connecting cross members as if bolted onto the pillars. He started to shine a spotlight onto these pillars:

"Son, these are the pillars upon which your paradigms are built." He focused the light of truth on each of the pillars in turn:

- Evangelicalism
- Sola Scriptura
- Greek thought
- Hebrew thought
- Augustinianism
- Protestantism
- Scientific rationalism
- Cultural relativism
- Humanism”⁹

So, if Father says that *sola scriptura* has to go because it messes with the “mind of Christ” we’re supposed to have, then it has to go.

As a final word, here’s what our King has given to us as his desire for our source of knowledge and our life in his Kingdom:

“If this nation is to ride through what is coming, rather than to be crushed, my people need to align with me, to partner with me in their lives and in their families and in this nation. Together, we can achieve everything. But, if you continue to go your own way, if you continue to work against me, to be defiant and do your own thing, your lives and this nation will pay the penalty of being out of alignment with me. Now, that’s a very simple fact, but it’s a hard thing to bring about. Alignment with me in the way you think, the desire to be about my business and to see my plans fulfilled, is your absolute total responsibility. You have free choice. You have autonomy as sons of the Most High God...

*I don’t tell you everything. I release what is essential for you and necessary for you. Rely on me for all information. **All knowledge is in me, and I am pleased to pass it on to you.** I will not hold back. If I deem it essential, I will release to you the knowledge that you need for daily living and to prepare for the future...*

Everything is in me. You must get to the point where I am everything to you. This may sound like a selfish thing, but it’s a spiritual reality. You were created that way, not just to rely on me, but to be one with me, and you can only be one with me if everything is drawn from me, your desire is towards me and for me, and your love for me includes [love for]¹⁰ all my plans and all my purposes.

You see, we’re in a partnership, and if you’re in it for the long haul, that partnership has easy times and difficult times, and you have to learn to enjoy both. It’s human nature to be dissatisfied when things are not as they are desired to be. But in my Kingdom, your desire should be whatever I desire. Change your attitude. Change your mind. Align with my thinking and you will see a massive change in your attitude. And, you will find that life on Earth with me is an adventure, and that adventure, by the way, does not end in disaster. My adventures have eternal purposes, and they are for the good of the Kingdom.”¹¹

9 – Mike Parsons (16-8-2018) “Pillars in my mind” (freedomarc.blog/2018/08/16/250-pillars-in-my-mind)

10 – Added to make the sense of the sentence more accurate [LDS]

11 – Excerpt from “Time for Frugal Living” (24-9-2019)

canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/MESSAGE-Time-for-Frugal-Living-24-9-2019.pdf

And this:

*“In the manifest darkness of this world I will give My people light. The river under the light represents the flow of My Spirit, which will come in My light. Receive this sign as that which will now take place among My beloved. Renew your hope and establish yourself in faith. The rainbows represent My promises—first that **I will speak to you, and I will reveal the plans of the enemy and how you can defeat him.** Secondly, **I will lead and guide you through the darkness of this season. I will give you light and direction.** Only believe!”¹²*

It’s time to end *sola scriptura* and break its hold on our minds so we can move forward in the things of the Kingdom because our focus will be on the right place – on the King and what he’s saying.

IMPORTANT: Anything can be ‘proved’ or justified from the Bible, even if it is an error or unrighteous. *Sola scriptura* is not an answer at all, just protection for those who can’t hear the Spirit communicate with their spirit. Here’s some perfect examples: Pete Buttigieg, quotes the Bible (unchallenged) to support far-left ideologies in his US presidential candidacy.¹³ The Uniting Church’s “Marrying same-gender people: a biblical rationale”.¹⁴ Check out the Uniting Church’s marchers in the 2019 Gay Mardi Gras.¹⁵ Also how the Church of England is accepting trans-gender pastors and justifying it with scripture.¹⁶

NOTE1: If you are interested, the bibliography article below summarizes the church system’s theology for the elevated importance of the Bible.¹⁷ (*email me for a copy if you can’t access the webpage*)

NOTE2: If you are game, check out the Roman Catholic academic paper below which analyses *sola scriptura* from a non-protestant perspective. You’ll have to ignore all the Catholic doctrine in them and focus on what they write about the history and reality of this expression. Why Catholic written literature? There is a maxim: “People in deception don’t know they are in deception. That’s what deception is”. If you really want to find out if you have been indoctrinated in any way at all, check out what opponents to any teaching have to say and then decide who’s correct. I’ve had lots of experience with this test. I’ve had to chuck out many Christian beliefs that I used to regard as absolute truth.

RESOURCES

- “Bibliology Finals.PDF” www.academia.edu/34958651/Bibliology_Finals
- “Not By Scripture Alone: A Catholic Critique of the Protestant Doctrine of Sola Scriptura.PDF” www.academia.edu/36443121/NOT_BY_SCRIPTURE_ALONE_A_Catholic_Critique_of_the_Protestant_Doctrine_of_Sola_Scriptura_Second_edition

Laurence

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Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License*

12 – “The Trumpet” (30-9-2019) ft111.com/thetrumpet.htm

13 – www.breakpoint.org/2019/09/breakpoint-mayor-pete-buttigieg-preaches

14 – dapto.uca.org.au/feeds-and-blogs/marrying-same-gender-people-a-biblical-rationale-an-informed-faith

15 – www.unitingnetworkaustralia.org.au/march-with-una-at-sydney-mardi-gras-parade-2nd-march

16 – www.prophecynewswatch.com/article.cfm?recent_news_id=3504

17 – The article is by Gaiphungam Gangmei