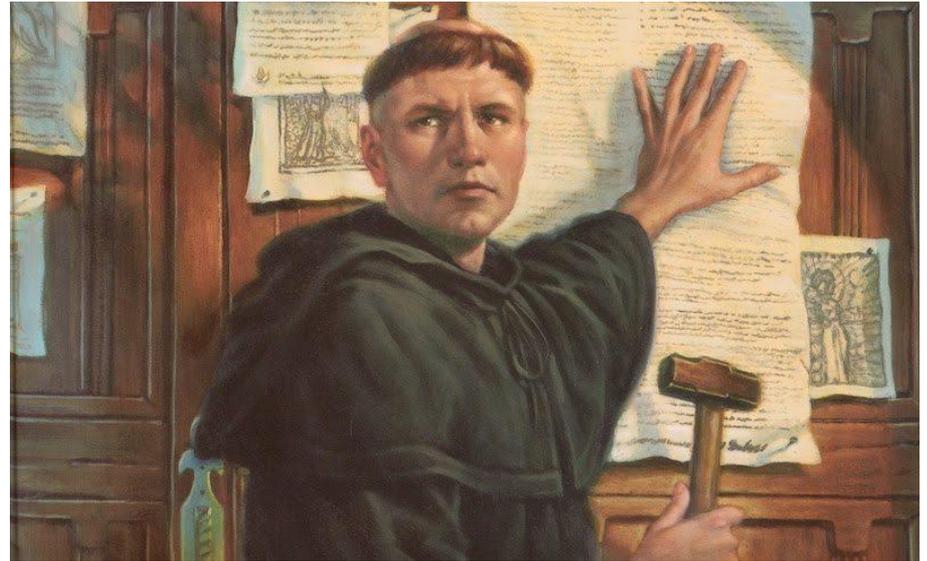


Solā Scripturā and Solā Fide

How Are These Positions Self-Defeating?



Solā Scripturā

- Scripture alone contains all the truths necessary for salvation. Tradition & Magisterium are unnecessary.
- Scripture is the only source of divine revelation, and the only infallible authority on faith and morals.
- But where did Scripture come from in the first place? The Canon established by the Church.
- And solā scripturā is nowhere in Scripture!
- A favorite verse of Protestants is 2 Tim 3:14-17 –
“But you, remain faithful to what you have learned and believed, because you know from whom you learned it, and that from infancy you have known the sacred scriptures, which are capable of giving you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

Solā Scripturā

“All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

- Most Protestant Bibles say “fully equipped” or “thoroughly equipped.”
- Even if “fully” were admitted, it still wouldn’t mean that Scripture is the only source of revealed truth.
- Analogies: water is necessary but not sufficient for life; a headlamp is useful to be a fully-equipped camper, but not sufficient.
- Context is important: 2 Tim 3:10-13 – St. Paul isn’t speaking only of Scripture.

And what “scripture” is St. Paul referring to? Only the Old Testament (which included the deuterocanonicals). So the early Christians were saved even though they didn’t have a New Testament!

Side Note: The Deuterocanonicals

- Luther threw them away; Scripture didn't.
- Look at all the times the Gospels quote deuterocanonicals:
- *Matt. 2:16 – Herod's decree of slaying innocent children was prophesied in Wis. 11:7 – slaying the holy innocents.*
- *Matt. 7:16,20 – Jesus' statement "you will know them by their fruits" follows Sirach 27:6 – the fruit discloses the cultivation.*
- *Matt. 9:36 – the people were "like sheep without a shepherd" is same as Judith 11:19 – sheep without a shepherd.*
- *Matt. 22:25; Mark 12:20; Luke 20:29 – Gospel writers refer to the canonicity of Tobit 3:8 and 7:11 regarding the seven brothers.*
- *John 5:18 – Jesus claiming that God is His Father follows Wisdom 2:16.*
- *Luke 21:24 – Jesus' usage of "fall by the edge of the sword" follows Sirach 28:18.*

Solā Scripturā

- Solā Scripturā is not scriptural, not logical, and not historical.
- 1 Cor. 11:2,23-24 – “I praise you because you remember me in everything and hold fast to the traditions, just as I handed them on to you. For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, and after he had given thanks, broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”
- 2 Pet. 3:15-17 – “And consider the patience of our Lord as salvation, as our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, also wrote to you, speaking

Solā Scripturā

of these things as he does in all his letters. In them there are some things hard to understand that the ignorant and unstable distort to their own destruction, just as they do the other scriptures.”

- 2 Pet. 1:20-21 “Know this first of all, that there is no prophecy of scripture that is a matter of personal interpretation, for no prophecy ever came through human will; but rather human beings moved by the Holy Spirit spoke under the influence of God.”
- 2 Thes. 2:15 “Therefore, brothers, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught, either by an oral statement or by a letter of ours.”

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- The “traditions” that Paul speaks of are not to be confused with the human traditions that Jesus condemns (cf. Mark 7:1-13)
- John 20:30-31 “Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.”
- 1 Thes. 2:13 “And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.”

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- Mark 16:15-16 He said to them, “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned.”
- 2 Thes. 3:6 “We instruct you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to shun any brother who conducts himself in a disorderly way and not according to the tradition they received from us.”
- 2 John 12 “Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink, but I hope to come to see you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete.”

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- 3 John 13 “I have much to write to you, but I do not wish to write with pen and ink. Instead, I hope to see you soon, when we can talk face to face.”
- The Protestant Churches say their only source of authority is the Bible. But the Bible says the only source of authority is the Church which Christ founded.

Solā Fide

- Faith alone is the basis of justification. Good works are unnecessary.
- In his German translation of the Bible, Martin Luther added the word “alone” to Romans 3:28 (“For we consider that a person is justified by faith alone, apart from works of the law.”)
- But St. Paul’s entire Letter to the Romans refers to works of the law, not works in general. (cf. Rom. 9:30-32)
- Rom. 10:9-10 “For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.” confess = persecution

Solā Fide

- Rom. 13:8-10 “Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery; you shall not kill; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this saying, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law.”
- 1 Cor. 13:1-13 Even a faith strong enough to move mountains is insufficient!
- Acts 16:31 “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you and your household will be saved.” (followed by charity, baptism, and hospitality; not just faith)

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- Acts 15:6-12 The Council of Jerusalem. Peter is referring to the works of the law, not good works.
- James 2:14-26 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,” but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead. Indeed someone may say, “You have faith and I have works.” Demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works. You believe that God is one. You do well.

Even the demons believe that and tremble. Do you want proof, you ignoramus, that faith without works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered his son Isaac upon the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by the works. Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called "the friend of God." See how a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. And in the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by a different route? For just as a body without a spirit is dead, so also faith without good works is dead.

Solā Fide

- Luther wanted to remove the Epistle of James from the Bible (along with the Deuterocanonicals: Tobit, Judith, 1 and 2 Maccabees, Wisdom, Sirach, Baruch, and parts of Daniel and Esther) because it didn't support his doctrine.