

Sola Scriptura

"The inspired writings - the New Testament of Jesus - claim for themselves that they alone are the standard of authority in religion today."

TEXT: 1 Cor. 4:6

INTRODUCTION:

- A. NO PASSAGE SPECIFICALLY MAKES THAT CLAIM.
 - 1. Apostles still alive and able to speak.
 - 2. Scripture was not complete until 70 AD or 96 AD.
 - B. THE SCRIPTURES POINT TO A TIME WHEN THEY ALONE MAY BE RELIED ON FOR AUTHORITY.
 - C. WE NEED TO EXAMINE THE PROCESS OF REVELATION AND THE CLAIM OF THE SCRIPTURES TO ALL-SUFFICIENCY.
- ### **I. THE PROCESS OF REVELATION THROUGH INSPIRATION.**
- A. JESUS IS GOD'S SPOKESMAN IN THIS DISPENSATION(**Heb. 1:1-2**).
 - 1. Jesus spoke not from himself, but from God(**John 12:49-50**).
 - 2. His voice is to be heard, not Elijah or Moses(**Matt. 17:1-8**)
 - 3. He is the **mediator** of a **New Covenant**(**Heb. 9:15-17**).
 - 4. Foretold by Moses(**Deut. 18:15-19; Acts 3:22-23**).
 - 5. Salvation is in the name of Jesus **only**(**Acts 4:12; John 14:6**).
 - 6. His word is the standard by which we will be judged(**John 12:48**).
 - B. JESUS DOES NOT SPEAK TO US DIRECTLY TODAY.
 - 1. He selected 12 men to be his ambassadors(**John 17:6-7; 17:20**).
 - 2. He promised them the Holy Spirit who would direct them in their speech.
 - a. He would remind them of what Jesus had already said (**John 14:25-26; Matt. 28:19-20**).
 - b. He would tell them things they weren't yet ready for(**John 16:12-14**).
 - 3. This promise was made **only to the apostles**(**John 15:26-27**).

Not to the Church.
 - C. THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS THE AGENT OF JESUS IN INSPIRATION.
 - 1. They were to wait in Jerusalem for the Spirit(**Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5, 8**).
 - 2. This Holy Spirit came in Acts 2(**Acts 2:1-4**).
 - a. A proclamation of the death, burial, and resurrection.
 - b. A proclamation of the covenant law (**Matt. 16:18-19; 18:18; Acts 2:36, 38**).
 - c. But the authority rested in Jesus - Only he makes law(**Jas. 4:12**).
 - d. His word is fixed in heaven Forever(**Psa. 119:89**)
 - e. Who received the Holy Spirit in Acts 2? (**Acts 1:26; 2:1, 14, 43; Heb. 2:3-4**). **The Apostles.**
 - D. WERE THERE OTHER MEN INVOLVED?(**Eph. 3:3-5**).
 - 1. What is a prophet?(**Deut. 18:15f.**).
 - 2. Who were some New Testament prophets?
 - a. Stephen(**Acts 6:8**).
 - b. Philip(**Acts 8:5-6**).
 - 3. How were gifts imparted?(**Acts 8:14-18; 6:5-6**). **The Apostles Hands.**
 - a. The **only** way NT prophets were made. **Philip couldn't do it.**

- b. Paul as an exception:
 - i. Jesus appeared so that he might be a witness
(**1 Cor. 15:7-11; Acts 26:16**).
 - ii. Chosen before he was born(**Gal. 1:15-16**).
 - iii. Teaching from God - Authoritative(**Gal. 1:11-12; Eph. 3:1-11**).
 - c. Cornelius as an exception(**Acts 10:44-48; 11:14-18**).
- E. POSSESSION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT A DETERMINATE FACTOR IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORITY.
1. God's law delivered by them because God was speaking through them
(**Luke 10:16**).
 2. God demonstrated his approval through miracles(**Heb. 2:3-4**).
 3. Today, **No One**
 - a. Can work miracles as they did.
 - b. Is inspired of the Holy Spirit.
 - c. Has the authority to reveal God's will.
 4. Why can't the apostles pass on the power of prophecy today?
There Are No Apostles Today!
 - a. APOSTLE - an ambassador or messenger - "one sent."
 - b. Special men with a **special job**. The 12, or the 11.
(**Matt. 26:14; John 6:67; 20:24; 1 Cor. 15:5; Acts 2:14**).
 - i. Witnesses(**Acts 1:8; 1 John 1:1-4; 2 Pet. 1:16**).
 - ii. Proclaimers of the law(**Matt. 16:19; 18:18**).
Not Lawmakers!(**James 4:12**).
 - iii. Bestowers of gifts(**Acts 8:18**).
 - iv. Missionaries(**Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16**).
 - c. Special men with special qualifications.
 - i. Chosen by God, called by Jesus
(**Gal. 1:1; 1 Cor. 15:7-9; Luke 6:13**).
 - ii. Befitting their task
(**Acts 1:21-22; Luke 24:48; 1 Cor. 9:1-2; 1 John 1:1, 4**).
 - iii. 2 exceptions: Jesus appeared personally to **Paul** and **James**
(**Rom. 1:1; 1 Cor. 1:1; 2 Cor. 12:12**).
 - d. Distinguished from broader use of the term
(**2 Cor. 8:23; Acts 14:4, 14; Phil. 2:25; Heb. 3:1**).
 - e. **Who today is an eyewitness** to the **ministry** or **resurrection** of Jesus?
Who has the proof of his Apostleship in **signs and miracles**?
Who can lay hands on one and produce a prophet?
There is NO Inspiration Today!
- F. APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY WELL ESTABLISHED.
1. That authority is not vested in the church. The church has no authority.
 2. Jesus is the head of the church(**Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18**).
 3. He speaks through the apostles and prophets of the New Testament
(**Matt. 18:18; Luke 10:16**).

II. THE OUTCOME OF INSPIRATION - 3 STAGES OF TIME.

- A. A TIME WHEN ALL WAS **ORAL** - WORD OF MOUTH OF INSPIRED MEN.
1. Referenced in the NT(**Acts 2; 8:1-4; etc.**).
 - a. Before the writing began.

- b. Evidenced by the signs that followed(**Heb. 2:3-4; Mark 16:20**).
 - 2. Emphasized by Paul in **1 Cor. 2:10-16**.
 - a. Mysteries revealed by the Spirit to Apostles and Prophets(**Eph. 3:5**).
 - b. Revealed in words given by the Spirit(**1 Cor. 2:12-13**).
- B. A TIME WHEN **BOTH ORAL AND WRITTEN**(**2 Thess. 2:15; 2 Pet. 3:1-2**).
 - 1. Paul spoke and Wrote(**Eph. 3:3-5**).
 - 2. Peter recognizes authority of writings(**2 Pet. 3:15-16**).
 - 3. Traditions equated with gospel(**2 Thess. 2:14-15**).
 - a. Paul binds the commands of both(**2 Thess. 1:7-9; 3:6**).
 - b. "This epistle"(**2 Thess. 3:14**).
 - 4. Passages do not teach that the oral and written traditions were independent of each other. **They Agree!**
 - a. These verses written the Thessalonian brethren.
 - b. **Not just any traditions** - specific teachings - "received of us"(**3:6**).
 - c. **Already received** - already delivered either by word or letter(**2:15**).
 - d. They **Do Not teach continued oral inspiration** through the ages.
 - e. They merely confirm the authority in the writings and the words of the Apostles.
- C. THE SCRIPTURES ANTICIPATE *Sola Scriptura*.
 - 1. Paul comments on his own writings(**Eph. 3:3-5; 1 Cor. 14:37; 16:1-2**).
 - a. Explaining the mystery.
 - b. Commands of the Lord.
 - 2. John's references(**John 20:30-31; 1 John 1:4; 5:13**).
 - 3. Peter's comments on Paul's writings(**2 Pet. 3:15-16**).
 - 4. The Scripture's claim(**2 Tim. 3:15-17**).
 - a. **2 Pet. 1:3**. Through a knowledge of him.
 - b. How do we know anything about Jesus?
(**Luke 1:1-4; John 20:30-31; 21:24-25; 1 John 1:1-4**).
 - 5. The End of Prophecy!(**Zech. 13:-1-8; 1 Cor. 13**).
 - 6. Jude's claim(**Jude 3 ==> Heb. 7:27; Heb. 10:10-12**).

III. THE IMPLICATIONS OF *Sola Scriptura*.

- A. THE SCRIPTURES AND THEIR TEACHINGS HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED.
 - 1. The things written were to be commanded
(**2 Thess. 3:4, 6, 12; 1 Tim. 3:14-15; 4:6, 11; 5:7; 6:2**).
 - 2. They have authority(**Titus 2:15**).
 - a. Commanded of the Lord(**1 Cor. 14:37; Luke 10:16**).
 - b. Bound by Paul's epistle(**2 Thess. 2:15; 3:6, 14-15**).
 - c. As though Paul himself was present(**2 Cor. 10:7-11**).
 - 3. They have purpose(**2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Cor. 13:9-10**).
- B. THE FAITH WAS ONCE DELIVERED(**Jude 3**).
- C. WE WILL BE JUDGE OUT OF THE BOOKS - WRITINGS(**Rev. 20:12**).
- D. WE ARE WARNED AGAINST DEVIATING.
 - 1. Contrary to the doctrine which ye learned(**Rom. 16:17-18**).
 - 2. A different doctrine than "these things"(**1 Tim. 6:2-5**).
 - 3. Loss of fellowship(**2 John 9**).
 - 4. **Gal. 1:6-9**. A different gospel. Though we, an angel, any man.
 - a. Already started - already removed.

- b. Circumcision was the only offense at this time(**Gal. 5:2-3**).
 - c. Deviation in instructions.
- E. AND SO ...(**1 Cor. 4:6**). NOT TO GO BEYOND WHAT?

THAT WHICH IS WRITTEN!

CONCLUSION:

- A. YOU HAVE A RIGHT AND A NEED TO DEMAND BOOK, CHAPTER AND VERSE.
- B. THAT MAY MAKE YOU LOOK NARROW-MINDED, BUT IT IS BETTER TO BE THAT THAN GULLIBLE AND DECEIVED. DEMAND PROOF!
- C. HAVE YOU SUBMITTED TO THE WILL OF CHRIST REVEALED IN THE BIBLE?