

SOLA SCRIPTURA

SHOULD WE FOLLOW THE BIBLE ALONE?

Or

RELATED QUESTION - WHERE DOES OUR AUTHORITY COME FROM?

What does the Bible say?

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 4:6

Context deeply divided church and the solution was sticking to what was written.

There is a deep division TODAY among those who call themselves Christians.

Several reasons for that but answering this question could go a long way to solving this issue.

Now Examining this question we need to realize:

1. No Single Passage of Scripture specifically says it this way
 - A. Why is that?
 1. Because Apostles were still alive & able to speak & Wrote most of the NT
 2. Scripture wasn't complete until the 1st Century
 - B. HOWEVER THE SCRIPTURES POINT TO A **TIME** WHEN **THEY ALONE** SHOULD BE RELIED ON FOR AUTHORITY
 - C. BRINGS UP THE NEED TO EXAMINE THE PROCESS OF REVELATION AND THE CLAIM OF **ALL-SUFFICIENCY** OF THE SCRIPTURES.

Let's Look at the Process of Revelation

I. PROCESS OF REVELATION THRU INSPIRATION

- A. Jesus is God's Spokesman for Today – **Hebrews 1:1-2**
1. He is the **mediator** of a **New Covenant** – **Hebrews 9:15-17**
 2. Foretold by Moses – (**Deut. 18:15-19**); **Acts 3:20, 22-23**
 3. Salvation in Jesus Name **Only** – **Acts 4:10-12, (John 14:6)**
 4. Jesus Word is the Standard – **John 12:48**

HOWEVER

- B. Jesus Doesn't Speak to Us Directly Today
1. He selected 12 men to be his ambassadors **Mark 3:14-15; JOHN 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 14:26
 3. This promise was made **only to the apostles** **John 15:26-27 (Luke 22:14)**
- C. Were Others Involved? **Ephesians 3:3-5**

THE WILL OF JESUS WAS REVEALED THRU THE APOSTLES & PROPHETS BUT WHAT ABOUT IN MATTERS OF AUTHORITY

- D. Possession of Holy Spirit is DEFINITE Factor in 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. **Bestowers of gifts** - **Acts 8:18 , Romans 10:17**

NOW AS FAR AS AUTHORITY...LET'S REVIEW WHAT WE READ:

- E. Apostolic Authority Well Established & Confirmed
- Jesus specifically choose the Apostles for this task
 - Holy Spirit led them by Jesus Authority
 - They alone had ability to pass on the power of the Holy Spirit
 -

HOWEVER, SOME CLAIM THE CHURCH HAS AUTHORITY TO GIVE LAW

1. NO SCRIPTURE FOR IT
2. **Jesus is the head of the church has ALL AUTHORITY** – **Matt 28:18; Eph. 1:22-23**
3. He speaks through the apostles and prophets of the New Testament
Matt. 18:18 - GAVE KEYS TO THE APOSTLES
Luke 10:16 - THOSE THAT HEAR THEM HEAR JESUS

NOW THAT WE HAVE ESTABLISHED THAT JESUS SPEAKS THROUGH THE APOSTLES PRIMARILY AND THEY ARE SPOKEMEN FOR JESUS.....let's look at the

3 DIFFERENCE STAGES OF INSPIRATION

II. 3 DIFFERENCE STAGES OF INSPIRATION

A. TIME When Just ORAL - WORD OF MOUTH OF INSPIRED MEN.

1. Referenced in the NT - **Acts 2; 8:1 & 4; etc.**
When 1st happened wasn't Recorded in writing.
 - a. 1st written book of NT was about 20 years after this happened

B. TIME WHEN BOTH ORAL AND WRITTEN

1. Traditions equated with gospel given by verbal word or epistle - **2 Thess. 2:15**
2. Words spoken by prophets & commandments of Apostles - **2 Pet. 3:1-2** -
3. Passages do not teach that the oral and written traditions were independent of each other. **They Agree!**
 - a. They **Do Not teach continued oral inspiration** through the ages.
 - b. They merely confirm the authority in the writings and the words of the Apostles.

C. TIME WHEN SCRIPTURES ANTICIPATE Sola Scriptura.

1. The Scripture's claim
 - a. **2 Tim. 3:16-17 - ABOUT RIGHTEOUSNESS & CAN DO EVERY GOOD WORK (ABOUT WHAT RIGHT AND GOD'S WORK)**
 - b. **2 Peter 1:3 - ALL THINGS THAT PERTAIN TO LIFE & GODLINESS (ABOUT SALVATION, KNOWING & LIVING THE WAY GOD WANTS US TO)**
- thru knowledge of Jesus
 - c. Where do we know anything about Jesus?
John 21:24
2. OT Predicted & NT confirms The End of Prophecy! **Zech. 13:1-2; 1 Cor. 13:8-10**
3. Jude's claim **Jude 3 → Heb. 10:10**

NOW THAT WE HAVE ESTABLISHED THE BIBLE ALONE AS OUR SOURCE OF AUTHORITY... what are

III. IMPLICATIONS OF SOLA SCRIPTURA

A. THE SCRIPTURES AND THEIR TEACHINGS HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED.

1. The things written were commanded
2 Thess. 3:4, 1 Tim. 3:14-15; 4:6, 11;
2. They have authority - **Titus 2:15**
 - a. Commanded of the Lord - **1 Cor. 14:37**
3. They have purpose - **2 Tim. 3:16-17**

B. FAITH WAS ONCE DELIVERED – **Jude 3**

C. WE WILL BE JUDGED OUT OF THE BOOKS – WRITINGS - **Rev. 20:12**

D. WARNED AGAINST DEVIATING

1. Loss of fellowship - **2 John 9**
2. 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 AS REVEALED IN THE BIBLE?

THERE IS A LOT MORE THAT COULD BE SAID ABOUT THIS SUBJECT & INVITE YOU TO CALL US IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HAVING A BIBLE STUDY OR DISCUSSION.