

INTRODUCTION

1. For the last 4 weeks we have been looking into the Gospel.
2. In our first message we asked what is the gospel? And the answer is “good news.”
3. It’s “good news” that the Lord Jesus Christ bore the penalty of our sin on the cross and because of that offers forgiveness of sin to those who repent and believe.
4. Our second message was on the “bad news.”
5. We said in order for us to understand and appreciate the good news we need to understand the bad news.
6. So I spent two weeks talking about the wrath of God that is coming on all those who will not repent of their sin and surrender their life to Christ.
7. In message 3 and 4, I talked about the goodness and grace of God which God gives to all to some degree but specifically gives it to those who repent and believe in Christ.
8. Now I want to talk about the 5 Solas of the Reformation.
9. The five solas are listed behind me and identify for us the marks of true salvation.
10. They are the gospel.
11. The 5 solas are:

- Sola Scriptura - The Bible alone is our highest priority
 - Sola Fide - We are saved through faith alone in Jesus Christ
 - Sola Gratia - We are saved by grace alone
 - Sola Christus - Christ alone is our Lord, Savior, and King
 - Soli Deo Gloria - We live for the glory of God alone
12. The Five Solas are five Latin phrases (or slogans) that emerged from the Protestant Reformation. They are intended to summarize the Reformers' basic theological principles in contrast to certain teachings of the Roman Catholic Church of the day. "Sola" is Latin meaning "alone" or "only."
 13. In 1521, at the Diet of Worms, Martin Luther was told to recant his teachings that were meant to reform the Catholic church because they targeted the Pope and the Catholic church's teaching on the gospel. They said it wasn't the Bible alone or faith alone or grace alone or Christ alone. No it was the Bible plus the teachings of the Catholic church where a person is saved.
 14. So Martin Luther responded to the call to recant his teachings by saying, "Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience.... May God help me. Amen. (Kruger, Michael J. "Scripture Alone." *Tabletalk Magazine*, November 2012: The Five Solas 2012 : 8. Print).
 15. These words sparked the Protestant Reformation and identified to the Catholic Church that the Scripture alone, not popes, cardinals, priests or

the church defines the Gospel.

16. The Five Solas served as the collective rallying cry of the Protestant Reformers. These Latin phrases tell us that Scripture alone is our highest authority and that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, for God's glory alone.
17. As we consider the first sola this morning, I want to invite you to take your Bible and turn with me to Psalm 19.
18. In Psalm 19:7-11 we see that Scripture is the word of God and is the highest authority and the final answer for man.
19. Read Psalm 19:7-11.
20. As we look at verses 7-11 notice there are 6 titles for Scripture.
21. It is called "the law of the Lord," "the testimony of the Lord," (v.7), "the precepts of the Lord," "the commandment of the Lord" (v.8), "the fear of the Lord," and "the judgments of the Lord" (v.9).
22. Notice as I read each of those titles that is also says that Scripture is "of the Lord".
23. Also in verses 7-9, it tells us that Scripture is perfect, sure, right, pure, clean, true, and righteous.
24. Last notice 6 statements the psalmist gives us about Scripture.
25. It restores the soul, makes wise the simple, rejoices the heart, enlightens

the eyes, endures forever, and righteous altogether.

26. So as we look at verses 7-11 tonight, I want to divide this section up in 3 ways.
27. First, I want you to see the attributes of God's Word, then the appetite for God's Word, and last the authority of God's Word
28. All of these features will show us *sola scriptura*.
29. Notice the first feature: *the attributes of God's Word* (vv.7-9).

LESSON

I. The Attributes of God's Word (vv.7-9)

A. It is Perfect (v.7a)

1. That means it is complete

“Perfect” Heb.tamiym, “complete, whole, comprehensive, all-sided.” It can also mean “pure.” It is translated “without blemish” 44 times in the AV.

- a) Prov.30:5 - “Every word of God is pure.”
- b) Ps.12:6 - “The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.”
- c) Ps.119:140 - “Your word is very pure; therefore Your servant

loves it.”

“God’s Word is pure, without spot or blemish,” but it is also “complete, comprehensive, all-sided as to cover all sides of an issue.”

2. Not only is it complete but it is able to totally transform the inner person
 - a) It can take someone without hope and given them hope
 - (1) Ps.119:49 - “Remember the word to Your servant, upon which You have caused me to hope.”
 - (2) Ps.119:81 - “My soul faints for Your salvation, but I hope in Your word.”
 - (3) Ps.119:114 - “You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word.”
 - (4) Ps.119:116 - “Uphold me according to Your word, that I may live, and do not let me be ashamed of my hope.”
 - (5) Ps.119:147 - “I rise before the dawning of the morning, and cry for help; I hope in Your word.”
 - b) The Word of God can take a dirty, wretched, vile, impure person and totally transform them on the inside
 - (1) That is exactly what Jesus does at salvation - Ezek.11:19-

20

“Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.”

(2) According to 1 Peter 1:23 this occurs through the Word of God:

“Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.”

B. It is Sure (v.7b)

“Sure” Heb. Aman, “trustworthy”

1. God’s Word can be trusted - Ps.119:41-42

“Let Your mercies come also to me, O Lord—Your salvation according to Your word. So shall I have an answer for him who reproaches me, for I trust in Your word.”

D. James Kennedy says, “The well-known children’s hymn declares: ‘Jesus love me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.’ But with all the doubts cast on the Word of God by the critics of the Bible in the last two centuries or so, we might sing, ‘Jesus loves me? I don’t know. I wish someone could tell me so!’” (Ibid.,

p.209).

2. God's Word can be trusted in all areas of life

a) It can be trusted to tell you the truth about God

(1) The Bible says He loves you - John 3:16:

“For God so loved the world”

(2) The Bible says He sent His Son to die for you - John 3:16:

“That He gave His only begotten Son.”

(3) The Bible says you can have eternal life - John 3:16:

“That whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

b) It can be trusted to tell you the truth about Jesus

(1) The Bible says He was born of a virgin - Mat.1:23:

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

(2) The Bible says He lived a perfect life - 1 Pet.1:22:

“Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His

mouth.”

- (3) The Bible says He died for your sin - Rom.5:8:

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

- (4) The Bible says He resurrected from the grave on the third day - Mat.28:6:

“He is not here; for He is risen, as He said, Come, see the place where the Lord lay.”

- (5) The Bible says He’s coming back for His church - John 14:6

- (6) The Bible says He’s going to judge the world for their sin - Acts 17:30-31:

“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

- c) It can be trusted to tell you how to live your life

- (1) The Bible says you can have joy in trials (Jas.1:2-4)

- (2) The Bible says you can have peace with God (Rom.5:1)
 - (3) The Bible says you can have the fruit of the Spirit produced in your life (Gal.5:22-23)
 - (4) The Bible says you can have victory over sin (Rom.6:6-12)
 - (5) The Bible says you can have wisdom in marriage (Eph.5:22-25; 1 Pet.3:1-7)
- d) You can trust every Word of the Bible

(1) John 17:17

(2) Ps.119:151 - "All your commandments are truth"

(3) Ps.119:160 - "The entirety of Your Word is truth, and everyone of Your righteous judgments endures forever."

Ike Reighard tells the following story:

"While reading her Bible on a public bus, a bashful Christian was confronted by a belligerent man. He boldly asked if she believed everything in the Bible. She affirmed she did. He then said, 'If you believe everything, then explain to me how Jonah lived for three days in the belly of a whale!' The unassuming woman answered, 'I don't know, but I believe He did.' The man became more agitated. 'Lady, you should be able to explain what you believe!' She quietly repeated her inability to know exactly how Jonah survived but noted she would ask him

once she got to heaven. Sarcastically, the rude guy queried, ‘And what if Jonah didn’t make it to heaven?’ She replied, ‘Then you ask him’” (Stories for Preachers and Teachers, Ike Reighard, SBC Pastor’s Conference, 1993).

C. It is Right (v.8a)

“Right” Heb.yashar, “straight” (Strong). “It lays down a right path” (MacArthur).

1. God’s Word provides a right path

- a) You will not go wrong following the council of the Bible (2 Tim.3:16)
- b) It is the only means where *the man of God* may be complete (2 Tim.3:17)

“Man of God” is a technical term “for a preacher of divine truth” (MacArthur).

“Complete” Gr.artios, “fitted, complete, perfect” (Thayer).

Fritz Rienecker gives the definition: “completely outfitted, fully furnished, fully equipped, fully supplied” meaning “having everything one needs” or “capable of doing everything one is called to do” (MacArthur).

- (1) Ps.119:98-100 - “You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me. I

have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts.”

- (2) Prov.2:6 - “For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.”

Joseph Alleine said, “O ye saints, how you should love the Word, for by this you have been converted...Tie it about your neck, write it upon your hand, lay it in your bosom. When you go let it lead you, when you sleep let it keep you, when you wake let it talk with you. You that are unconverted, read the Word with diligence; flock to where it is powerfully preached. Pray for the coming of the Spirit in the Word. Come from your knees to the sermon, and come from the sermon to your knees.”

- c) It warns you of what will harm you

(1) It warns you about sin by telling you that the “wages of sin is death” (Rom.6:23)

(2) It warns you about running with those who follow after sin - Prov.1:10:

“My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent.”

(3) It warns you about Satan by telling you to “Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (Jas.4:7)

- d) It shows you the right way to live

(1) It teaches you to fear God - Eccl.12:13:

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.”

(2) It teaches you to love God - Deut.6:5:

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

(3) It teaches you to love one another - Mat.22:39:

“And the second is like it: ‘you shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

(4) It teaches you how to be Spirit-led and controlled (Gal.5:16)

2. God’s Word is the right path

a) It is the path the light is on - Ps.119:105:

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

b) This is why it is “sure” and “trustworthy” – it won’t let you down - Ps.119:128:

“Therefore all Your precepts concerning all things I consider to be right; I hate every false way.”

Abraham Lincoln said, “All things desirable to men are contained in the Bible.”

That is why Christian Johnson said, “A Bible that’s falling apart probably belongs to someone who isn’t.”

D. It is Pure (v.8b)

“Pure” Heb.bar, “clear”

1. It lets you see what you would never see

a) At salvation God gives you a new heart - Ezek.36:26:

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”

b) God also gives you new desires - Ps.37:4-5:

“Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.”

c) With a new heart and new desires comes a new awareness of Him - 1 Cor.2:9-10:

“But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” But God has revealed them

to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.”

2. It opens your eyes to Jesus

- a) David prayed: “Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law” (Ps.119:18).
- b) Paul prayed: “that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power” (Eph.1:17-19).

E. It is Clean (v.9a)

“Clean” Heb.tahowr, “pure, clean” (Strong), “without spot” (MacArthur)

1. God’s Word is pure

- a) The psalmist recognized this truth

(1) They are “pure words” - Ps.12:6a:

“The words of the LORD are pure words.”

(2) They withstand every test - Ps.12:6b:

“Like silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.”

Charles Spurgeon said, “In the original there is an allusion to the most severely purifying process known to the ancients, through which silver was passed when the greatest possible purity was desired; the dross was all consumed, and only the bright and precious metal remained; so clear and free from all alloy of error or unfaithfulness is the book of the words of the Lord. The Bible has passed through the furnace of persecution, literary criticism, philosophic doubt, and scientific discovery, and has lost nothing but those human interpretations which clung to it as alloy to precious ore” (The Treasury of David, p.56).

b) Every child of God recognizes and believes that God’s Word is pure

(1) David again said in Ps.119:140, “Your word is very pure; therefore Your servant loves it.”

“In the Word of God, there is no admixture of error or sin. It is pure in its sense, pure in its language, pure in its spirit, pure in its influence, and all this to the very highest degree – very pure” (Spurgeon).

(2) Agur said in Prov.30:5 that “every word of God is pure; He

is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.”

Thomas Manton said, “As pure gold suffers no loss by the fire, so the promises suffer no loss when they are tried, but stand to us in our greatest troubles.”

2. God’s Word is unadulterated - 1 Pet.2:2:

“As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.”

“Pure” Gr.adolos, “guileless” (Strong), “without deceit, unadulterated” (BAG), “pure” (Vine)

- a) It will not deceive you
- b) Nothing needs to be added to it

Craig Keener says, “‘Pure’ milk meant that it had not been mixed with anything else; the term is used in business documents for sales of unadulterated foods” (IVP Bible Background Comm: NT).

- c) It will grow you

Warren Wiersbe says, “God’s Word has life, gives life, and nourishes life” (The Bible Exposition Comm.)

F. It is True (v.9b)

1. God’s Word is the truth

- a) It can withstand every critic - (Pilate - “What is truth?” - Jn.18:38)
 - b) It can satisfy every one who investigates its claims (Nicodemus - Jn.3:1-2)
2. The Bible affirms its truthfulness
 - a) Ps.119:142 - “Your law is truth”
 - b) Ps.119:160 - “The entirety of your word is truth”

Thomas Goodwin said, “God hath but three things dear unto Him in this world, His saints, His worship, and His truth; and its hard to say which of these is dearest to Him.”

G. It is Righteous (v.9)

“Taken separately or corporately, God’s judgments are manifestly pure and righteous” (Falwell).

1. It is called “righteous” (v.9) also Ps.119:138:

“Your testimonies, which You have commanded, are righteous judgments.”

2. It is called “Your righteous judgments” - Ps.119:7:

“I will praise You with uprightness of heart, when I learn Your righteous judgments.”

II. The Appetite for God's Word (v.10)

A. God's Word is to Be Desired

“Desired” Heb.chamad, “to desire, covet, take pleasure in, delight in”

“The words of God's Word are more precious than the finest commodity man possesses” (Falwell).

1. “More...than gold”
2. “Yea, than much fine gold”

Ps.119:72 - “The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of coins of gold and silver.”

3. It is “sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb”

Ps.119:103 - “How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!”

B. God's Word is to Occupy the Greatest Place in Your Heart

1. It must be your greatest priority - Job 23:12:

“I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.”

2. It must be your greatest desire - Ps.119:20:

“My soul breaks with longing for Your judgments at all times.”

III. The Authority of God's Word (v.11)

A. It Provides Warning

“Moreover by them Your servant is warned”

“Warned” Heb.zahar, “admonished”

1. It warns us of sin - Gal.6:7-8:

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”

2. It corrects us when we sin - 2 Pet.2:15-16:

“They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet.”

B. It Promises Great Reward

“And in keeping them there is great reward”

1. Prov.4:1-8

2. John 14:21 - “He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My

Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

CONCLUSION

1. Is God’s Word your highest priority?
2. Do you see that it is *perfect, sure, right, pure, clean, truth and righteous*?
3. Do you desire it *more...than gold, yea, much fine gold*?
4. Is it to you *sweeter than honey and the honeycomb*?
5. Do you heed its warnings?
6. If you do *there is great reward*.
7. Let’s pray.