

The Living Word of God

John 1:1-18

Read John 1:1-18

The Word of God in Context

Hebrews 1

1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,
2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things,
through whom also He made the worlds;

3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

4 having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. (NKJV)

The Announcement

John 1

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.

8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

15 John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'"

16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.

17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him. (NKJV)

**Today I'm talking about the Word of God.
How do you see the Word of God?**

- Grandpa's Funeral
- First prayer
- Amish application of church discipline





Above: Grandpa's Horse, Below: My parents, Lester & Rebecca Graber at Grandpa's grave



“Sola Scriptura!” - Five *solae*

- 1 Sola scriptura ("by Scripture alone")
- 2 Sola fide ("by faith alone")
- 3 Sola gratia ("by grace alone")
- 4 Solus Christus or Solo Christo ("Christ alone" or "through Christ alone")
- 5 Soli Deo gloria ("glory to God alone")

Sola scriptura (Latin ablative, "by scripture alone") is the doctrine that the [Bible](#) contains all knowledge necessary for [salvation](#) and [holiness](#). Consequently, *sola scriptura* demands only those doctrines are to be admitted or confessed that are found directly within or indirectly by using [valid](#) logical deduction or valid [deductive reasoning](#) from [scripture](#). However, *sola scriptura* is not a denial of other authorities governing Christian life and devotion. Rather, it simply demands that all other authorities are subordinate to, and are to be corrected by, the written word of God. *Sola scriptura* was a foundational doctrinal principle of the [Protestant Reformation](#) held by the [Reformers](#) and is a [formal principle](#) of Protestantism today (see [Five solas](#)).

During the Reformation, authentication of scripture was governed by the discernible excellence of the text as well as the personal witness of the [Holy Spirit](#) to the heart of each man. Furthermore, per *sola scriptura*, the relationship of Scriptural authority to pastoral care was well exemplified by the [Westminster Confession of Faith](#) which stated:

Chapter 1, Section VII. All things in Scripture are not alike plain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all; yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed, and observed, for salvation, are so clearly propounded and opened in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the learned, but the unlearned, in a due use of the ordinary means, may attain unto a sufficient understanding of them.

Here the phrase "due use of the ordinary means" includes appeals to pastors and teachers ([Ephesians 4:11-14](#)). As such, *sola scriptura* reflects a careful tension between the perspicuity (clarity) of Scripture necessary for its role as final authority, and the occasional need for its meaning to be revealed by exposition ([Hebrews 5:12](#)).

Beyond the Reformation, as in some Evangelical and Baptist denominations, *sola scriptura* is stated even more strongly: it 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](#).

By contrast, the [Catholic Church](#) and [Eastern Orthodox](#) and [Oriental Orthodox](#) Churches teach that the Scriptures are not the only infallible source of Christian doctrine. In their view "the Church [...] 'does not derive her certainty about all revealed truths from the holy Scriptures alone. Both Scripture and [Tradition](#) must be accepted and honoured with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence.' [...] The Tradition here in question comes from the apostles and hands on what they received from Jesus' teaching and example and what they learned from the Holy Spirit. The first generation of Christians did not yet have a written New Testament, and the New Testament itself demonstrates the process of living Tradition."^[1] These churches also believe that "[t]he task of giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God, whether in its written form or in the form of Tradition, has been entrusted to the [living teaching office](#) of the Church alone[...]"^[2] in part because it was the Church that [selected](#) which books were to be in the [biblical canon](#). Protestants believe instead that the [Church passively recognized and received the books](#) that were already widely considered canonical.^[3]

2 Timothy 3

14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,

15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (NKJV)

Obvious Errors

- We exalt our Tradition and church practices to the same plane as Scripture
- We add to the Scriptures
- We subtract from the Scriptures

Hidden Dangers

- Our Creed becomes the lens through which we look at Scripture
- Our Systematic Theology begins to dictate Scripture
- We begin to operate off of our interpretation of someone else's interpretation of Scripture

John 14

26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

(NKJV)

"The Word of God" in the Gospel of John

John 5

24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, **he who hears My word** and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

25 "Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when **the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.**

38 "But you do not have **His word** abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe.

39 "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

40 "But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

45 "Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you--Moses, in whom you trust.

46 "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.

47 "But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?" (NKJV)

Peter's Confession

When many of the disciples stopped walking with Jesus because of what he said about eating his flesh and drinking his blood, Jesus attempted to enlighten them by explaining:

John 6

63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. *The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.*

67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?"

68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

69 "Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Truth Makes Free

John 8

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in **My word**, you are My disciples indeed.

32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

47 "He who is of God hears **God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God."**

My Words Abide In You

John 15

3 "You are already clean because of the **word** which I have spoken to you.

4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 "If you abide in Me, and **My words** abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

The Witness of The Word

John 15

26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

27 "And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

(NKJV)

1 John 5

5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

6 This is He who came by water and blood--Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.

7 For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.

8 And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.

9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son.

10 He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

Fellowship of the Word

1 John 1

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the **Word of life**--

2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us--

3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our **fellowship** is with the Father and **with His Son Jesus Christ**.

4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

John 5

19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

20 "For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.

John 8

28 Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.

29 "And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."

John 12

47 "And if anyone hears **My words** and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.

48 "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--**the word that I have spoken** will judge him in the last day.

49 "*For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.*

50 "*And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.*"

John 16

13 "*However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.*

14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

15 "All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

John 17

20 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me **through their word**;

21 "that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

22 "And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:

23 "I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

24 "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

25 "O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me.

26 "And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."