

Sola Scriptura

At the dawn of the Reformation, the laity of the church was hindered from knowing the Word of God. The Priest would speak in Latin, reading from the Vulgate Bible, a Latin translation of the original languages, translated by Jerome from the 5th century. Copies were very few, reserved for the ecclesiastical ranks, who were able to tell the people whatever they wished. The common church member unable to examine the truthfulness of the priest message.

Unlike the Bereans spoken of in Acts 17 who, “searched the scriptures daily” our medieval brothers and sisters in Christ had no personal knowledge of the scriptures and no way to search the Word of God themselves.

Along with not having access to the word, the leaders of the church held up canons and counsels, proclamation and Popes as equal with Gods revealed word. the ability to lean on a consistent, unified and right understanding of God’s law and will was nearly impossible at the start of the 1500’s.

But God provided two great blessings at the time to ignite the fire of the Reformation, Gutenberg’s printing press and Erasmus Greek NT. With the advent of the printing press, the written word in general and the Bible in particular were much more widely available and affordable. With the Greek NT, readers were able to see what the original intent of the penmen had been, giving a more correct understanding of the truths of Scripture.

Over time the Greek NT would help give birth to German, French, and eventually English translations, which handed down through many generations and versions, landed in our laps today. The word that was hidden from the common Christian can now be hidden within our hearts. Where the people stumbled in spiritual darkness, we now have the lamp to our feet and light to our path.

May we always look to the only source of truth, the unchanging word of God and share the cry of our Reformation forbearers of Sola Scriptura.

2 Timothy 3:10-17 But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance,
11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra — what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.

12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

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.