

4. Read 2 Timothy 2:14-17 and 2 Timothy 3:14-17. What additional insights do these passages offer for interpreting scripture correctly?

Application

5. Think through what you have been taught through the years. What teaching can you think of that was based on tradition rather than scripture? Do you still believe that it is true? Do you hold to it as firmly as you do to doctrines that you know are soundly based in scripture? Do you have the tools to tell the difference?

Sola Scriptura – The Final Word Hebrews 4:12; Selected Scriptures

“The doctrine of *sola Scriptura* means not only that there is a Bible in every man’s hands, but also a struggle in every man’s mind – a struggle to find the truth for themselves. It does not mean we do not have teachers who are gifted in theology and exegesis; nor does it mean that we disregard the traditions of the past. It means that each person must study and wrestle with theology for themselves, coming to a deeper understanding, and taking ownership of their convictions.”

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The Reformation – Why should we care?

Martin Luther didn’t just usher in the Reformation, he rediscovered biblical Christianity.

Rediscovering the five “solas”

By scripture alone

By faith alone

By grace alone

By Christ alone

To God be the glory

We care because we’re still fighting the same battles.

The principles demonstrated in scripture

Mark 7:6-12

Leaders' teachings are vain when they are merely human rules or opinions.

In reality, both Pharisees, and indulgences lowered the bar for holiness so grace wouldn't be necessary.

Matt 7:24-29

People saw the difference; when they heard the words of Jesus (or of scripture) they recognized authority.

Every reformer saw the need to put the Bible in the hands of people.

Principles played out in our lives

Sola Scripture is not the democratization of Scripture. It brings greater responsibility to seek the truth

Teachers are important; we don't put them on a pedestal, we check them out with scripture.

Getting to Know Me

1. Tell us a little about the church that you grew up in. How much did they teach you about the Reformation?

Into the Bible

2. Read John 14:26 and John 16:13-15. According to these two passages, what are the two responsibilities of the Holy Spirit with regard to scripture? How do those two jobs work out in our everyday lives?

3. Jim spoke of the danger of the "democratization" of scripture. We could call this the Judges method of interpretation: everyone believes what is right in their own eyes. Read 2 Peter 1:19-21. What does this passage say about the two-fold job of the Holy Spirit from question 2? How does it warn us about opening up biblical interpretation to any ideas we might have?