

2018 VISION SERIES
THIS ALONE WILL CHANGE THE GAME

ISSUE 1



BY SCRIPTURE ALONE.

“Let us reverently hear and read Holy Scripture, which is the food of the soul. Let us diligently search for the well of life in the books of the New and Old Testament, and not run to the stinking puddles of men’s traditions, devised by men’s imaginations, for our justification and salvation.” THOMAS CRANMER

“I perceived how that it was impossible to establish the lay people in any truth except the Scripture were plainly laid before their eyes in their mother tongue.” WILLIAM TYNDALE

SOLA SCRIPTURA (SCRIPTURE ALONE)

1. What place did the Bible hold at the time of the Reformation? What place does it hold today?

2. Read 2 Peter 1:12-21. What do these verses tell us about the reliability of Scripture?

3. What does 2 Peter 1:12-21 say about Scripture (e.g. verse 19)? What do the following verses say about Scripture?

Acts 20:32

1 Corinthians 10:1-12

Hebrews 4:12

4. In Psalm 119:33-40 what does the Psalmist ask God to do through the Scriptures and how does it help us?

5. Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17. What do these verses say about:

- The purpose of Scripture
- The authority of Scripture
- The sufficiency of Scripture

GOING DEEPER

6. How is Scripture used today to redefine God's ideals for His people? In what ways have we moved away from the truth of Scripture?

7. What things have been added to or taken away from Scripture these days?

8. How do we avoid the problem of 2 Peter 2:1-3? What are some of the destructive heresies we face and how does Scripture help us to deal with them?

MAKING IT STICK

9. What place does reading Scripture have in your priorities?

10. Does Scripture feature in your decision making?

11. What do you find difficult about reading the Scriptures? What questions should you ask of the Bible when you read it?

12. What kind of reformation needs to happen in your life when it comes to Scripture?

13. Why is it important that Scripture is our highest authority for Christian faith and practice?

CHRIST ALONE.

“Almighty God. Look with mercy on this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given into the hands of sinners and to suffer death upon a cross, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.”

THOMAS CRANMER

A modern version of prayer on Good Friday from Common Prayer originally constructed by Thomas Cranmer.

SOLA CHRISTI (CHRIST ALONE)

1. Why do you think ‘Christ Alone’ is such an important truth today?
2. Read Colossians 1:1-23 (also Hebrews 9:11-14). What did Jesus’ sacrifice mean for him? What does Jesus’ sacrifice mean for us?
3. Why is salvation found only in Christ according to Colossians 1:15-23?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 15:17-22. Why is it important that Jesus not only died for our sins but also rose from the dead?
5. Read Ephesians 2:1-5. Why is it not possible for us to save ourselves?

GOING DEEPER

6. Why is it important that Jesus is God?

7. Being born again as a disciple of Jesus does not just mean following Jesus but being united with him (Romans 6:5-14 and Gal 2:20). What words or ideas would you use to describe this union? What does it mean for our salvation? What do we lose by this union and what do we gain?

MAKING IT STICK

8. Believing in Jesus is the way to eternal life (John 3:16). What does it mean for us now?

9. How does being united with Jesus affect how we view those around us, firstly other Christians and then those who do not hold the same beliefs?

10. In what ways can we reflect our union with Christ to our families, work colleagues, friends etc? Be specific.

11. How does the death and resurrection of Jesus affect your assurance of salvation?

BY FAITH ALONE.

“If you have true faith that Christ is your Saviour, then at once you have a gracious God, for faith leads you in and opens up God’s heart and will, that you should see pure grace and overflowing love.”

MARTIN LUTHER.

SOLA FIDE (FAITH ALONE)

1. Is it hard to have faith in God? Why or why not?
2. Read Romans 3:9-18. What do these verses say about us? Why is this difficult to accept for some people? Can you think of other words or expression to describe what these verses say about the human condition?
3. Read Romans 3:21-26. What do you understand “justified” to mean?
4. In what ways do people seek to be justified?
5. What does this passage say about faith and faith alone in regard to being justified (or declared righteous)?

GOING DEEPER

6. Read Romans 5:1-5. What is the relationship between faith and grace?

7. We gain peace with God by being justified through faith (verse 1)? What does this mean for you?

8. Can you put into your own words what Paul is saying in these verses (Romans 5:1-5)?

MAKING IT STICK

9. If salvation is by grace through faith alone, what role do works have in the Christian walk?

10. Is faith something that we muster for ourselves or is it a gift?

11. Do you have faith in what God has done in making you righteous through the death of Jesus?

12. In what ways do you try to justify your actions rather than repenting? Why?

BY GRACE ALONE.

“If people mean that man has in himself the power to work in partnership with God’s grace they are most wretchedly deluding themselves.”

JOHN CALVIN

SOLA GRATIS (GRACE ALONE)

1. What do you understand grace to mean?
2. Read Ephesians 2:4-6. What do these verses tell us God does? Why can’t we do these things for ourselves?
3. Why is ‘Grace Alone’ important?
4. Read Philippians 3:4-7. In what ways do you treat God’s grace like an additional benefit rather than all sufficient?
5. Read Titus 2:11-14. How does grace teach us to live until Jesus returns?

GOING DEEPER

6. At the end of all of Paul’s letters, he uses the word grace (the only exception may be Romans but it is used in 16:20). Why do you think he does this? What is the benefit of finishing the letter this way?

7. Read Romans 6:1-4. What problem is Paul dealing with in these verses?

8. How can we grow out of the problem raised in Romans 6:1-4?

MAKING IT STICK

9. List three ways that you have experienced God's unmerited grace.

10. Tim Keller posted on FB, "We habitually and instinctively look to other things besides God and his grace as our justification, hope, significance, and security." What other things do you look to?

11. How does grace influence the conflict you have with others?

12. In what ways does grace help us view things such as education, work, family, friends etc?

BY VISION ALONE.

“To gather with God’s people in united adoration of the Father is as necessary to the Christian life as prayer.”

MARTIN LUTHER

READ REVELATION 21:1-8 AND REVELATION 21:22-22:5.

1. What did you learn from the sermon on the weekend?
2. What things stood out to you?
3. In what ways were you challenged by what you heard?
4. After reading these verses during this time in your small group, by what are you encouraged?
5. What would you like to change in your life as a result of what you heard?

BY SPIRIT ALONE.

“The grace of God has no charms for men till the Holy Spirit gives them a taste for it.” “The Holy Spirit is the bond by which Christ efficaciously unites us to himself.”

JOHN CALVIN

READ EPHESIANS 3:1-21

1. What did you learn from the sermon on the weekend?
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