

“*SOLA SCRIPTURA—SCRIPTURE ALONE*”

2 Peter 1:19-21

THE VITALITY OF SCRIPTURE. v.19

- vital = necessary, essential to life, of crucial importance
1. **God’s Word is more sure (certain) than personal experience.**
 - “...we have something more sure, the prophetic word” “prophetic word” = the Bible
 - In previous verses Peter was talking about being with Jesus at the Transfiguration.
 2. **God’s Word is spiritually profitable and should not be ignored/neglected.**
 - “...to which you do well to pay attention...” Lit. ‘to hold the mind on’
 3. **God’s Word is like a light shining in a dark place. “...a lamp shining in a dark place...”**
 - God’s Word is necessary—it shines in a dark place. Ps 119:105
 - God’s Word is relevant—it continues to shine. (Gk. tense emphasizes the shining is on-going, continuous)
 4. **God’s Word sustains us until the return of Christ.**
 - “...until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.” – a reference to return of Christ

THE VALIDITY OF SCRIPTURE. v.20-21

1. **The Bible is not a revelation of a prophet or apostle. v.20**
 - “one’s own” = refers to the prophets, apostles, others who wrote the Bible
 2. **The Bible is a revelation from God. v.21**
 - “For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man...” = no part of the Bible originated from man.
 - The Bible did not come from an act of human will. **v.21a**
 - The Bible came when men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. **v.21b**
- 2 Tim 3:16: All Scripture is breathed out by God... NIV: “God-breathed”

THREE VIEWS OF SCRIPTURE

1. **The Bible is *not* the Word of God.**
 - Some: It is a good book, but just a book. Human authors with great insights, etc. but like any other book.
 - Others: it is actually an evil book, full of errors and lies.
2. **The Bible is *sort of* the Word of God.**
 - Some is God’s Word, but mixed w/man’s word and therefore has errors. → *It is partly God’s Word.*
 - Some parts are true, some parts are not true. Bible is not God’s Word, but it ‘contains’ the Word of God.

→ This view is held by liberal Protestants, mainline denominations, many people
3. **The Bible *is* the Word of God.**
 - It is from God, it is all true, and there are no errors in the original Greek & Hebrew manuscripts.
 - Plenary-Verbal inspiration of the Bible: Literally = “all-words” *every single word* is God’s Word. No errors.

→ The Bible is our only rule for faith (what we believe) and practice (how we live).

WHAT CHALLENGES THE ‘ALONE’ OF ‘SCRIPTURE ALONE’?

1. **Church tradition Roman Catholic – Popes and Councils**
2. **Personal experience.**
 - Religious or spiritual experiences
 - Messages from our story (collection of the people, events, and circumstances that have shaped my life)
3. **Cultural, social, or political trends.**

Special Announcements...

NEXT WEEK: **Remember to set your clocks forward by 1 hour on Saturday night.**
9:45 – Discipleship Classes
10:45 – Combined Worship Service
12:00 – All church picnic

SUPPORT LIFE:

Many people at Covenant Life Church support the Sarasota Medical Pregnancy Center through prayer, financial gifts, and volunteering to assist those with unplanned pregnancies.

Here's a way for you to double your financial gift to the Sarasota Medical Pregnancy Center:

The Flanzer Trust has invited Sarasota Medical Pregnancy Center to offer financial donors an opportunity to have their donations MATCHED. Any donation between \$5 and \$500 per month, per household, with a maximum of \$3,000 for the calendar year, will be MATCHED by the Flanzer Trust in 2022.

How can you have your next gift matched by the Flanzer Trust?

There are three simple ways:

- **Donating by check?**

Please make the check payable to "Flanzer Trust" and note "SMPC" in the memo line. Mail or drop your check off at Sarasota Medical Pregnancy Center and we will forward it for you to the Flanzer Trust for the match.

- **Donating online?**

Please visit flanzertrust.org/make-a-donation/ go directly to the Flanzer Trust donation page; fill in the secure form and SELECT Sarasota Medical Pregnancy Center from the drop-down scroll bar to have your gift applied to the Center.

- **Prefer SMPC to take your gift over the phone?**

We're happy to help you with your donation. Please call us at 941-264-1403.