

SOLA SCRIPTURA 2 TIM. 3:15-4:5

Authority is always the issue – things always get back to authority!

- **Reason:** one's own mind / ability to think/understand
- **Experience:** I know what the Bible says but I know what I experience / how I feel!
- **Tradition:** we have always / never → Scripture then can become simply part of tradition.
- **Scripture+:** This is usually hidden / not noticed
- **Sola Scriptura:** recognizing this is a goal, we recognize that truth is based on Scripture alone.

I. Scripture is sufficiently clear!

2 Timothy 1:5 When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy **grandmother Lois**, and thy **mother Eunice**; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

2 Timothy 3:10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, **2 Timothy 3:11** Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of *them* all the Lord delivered me. **2 Timothy 3:14** But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*;

2 Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Thoughts:

- Scripture can be known / understood
- Known / understood **even** by children
- Sufficiently known for a child to be saved
- Sufficiently known when taught **in the home and at church gatherings**
- Sufficiently known for believing the gospel **and for following Christ (life & godliness)**
- Sufficiently known but certainly **not exhaustively known by any and all!!!**

Deuteronomy 6:6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: **Deuteronomy 6:7** And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Deuteronomy 30:11 For this commandment which I command thee this day, it *is* not hidden from thee, neither *is* it far off. **Deuteronomy 30:12** It *is* not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? **Deuteronomy 30:13** Neither *is* it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? **Deuteronomy 30:14** But the word *is* very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.

Romans 10:6 But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say **not** in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down *from above*): **Romans 10:7 Or**, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) **Romans 10:8** But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, ***even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;**

2 Peter 3:15 And account *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; **2 Peter 3:16** As also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things; **in which are some things hard to be understood**, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as *they do* also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

Psalm 119:105 Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, And a light unto my path.

Psalm 119:130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; It giveth understanding unto the simple.

Psalm 19:7 The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul: The testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple. **Psalm 19:8** The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart: The commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes. **Psalm 19:9** The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring for ever: The judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether. **Psalm 19:10** More to be desired *are they* than gold, yea, than much fine gold: Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. **Psalm 19:11** Moreover by them is thy servant warned: *And* in keeping of them *there is* great reward.

Philippians 3:15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. **Philippians 3:16** Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

2 Peter 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us **all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:** **2 Peter 1:4** Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

London Baptist Confession 1689

7. 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 ordinary means, may attain to a **sufficient** understanding of them.

II. Scripture is plenary and verbally inspired

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture *is* given by inspiration (θεόπνευστος) of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2 Peter 1:20 Knowing this first, that **no** prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. **2 Peter 1:21** For the prophecy **came** (ἠνέχθη) **not** in old time by the will of man: **but holy men of God spake as they were moved (φερόμενοι) by the Holy Ghost.**

Acts 27:15 And when the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind, **we let her drive (ἐφερόμεθα).** **Acts 27:17** Which when they had taken up, they used helps, undergirding the ship; and, fearing lest they should fall into the quicksands, strake sail, and **so were driven (ἐφέροντο).**

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Chapter 1: Of the Holy Scriptures

1. The Holy Scripture is the **only** sufficient, certain, and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience, although the light of nature, and the works of creation and providence do so far manifest the goodness, wisdom, and power of God, as to leave men inexcusable; yet are they not sufficient to give that knowledge of God and his will which is necessary unto salvation. **Therefore it pleased the Lord at sundry times and in divers manners to reveal himself, and to declare that his will unto his church; and afterward for the better preserving and propagating of the truth, and for the more sure establishment and comfort of the church against the corruption of the flesh, and the malice of Satan, and of the world, to commit the same wholly unto writing;** which maketh the Holy Scriptures to be most necessary, those former ways of God's revealing his will unto his people being now ceased.

2. Under the name of Holy Scripture, or the Word of God written, are now contained all the books of the Old and New Testaments, which are these:

OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I Samuel, II Samuel, I Kings, II Kings, I Chronicles, II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, The Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

OF THE NEW TESTAMENT: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, The Acts of the Apostles, Paul's Epistle to the Romans, I Corinthians, II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I Thessalonians, II Thessalonians, I Timothy, II Timothy, To Titus, To Philemon, The Epistle to the Hebrews, Epistle of James, The first and second Epistles of Peter, The first, second, and third Epistles of John, The Epistle of Jude, The Revelation. **All of which are given by the inspiration of God, to be the rule of faith and life.**

3. The books commonly called Apocrypha, **not** being of divine inspiration, are **no** part of the canon or rule of the Scripture, and, therefore, are of **no** authority to the church of God, **nor** to be any otherwise approved or made

use of **than other human writings**.

4. The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed, dependeth **not** upon the testimony of any man or church, **but wholly upon God (who is truth itself)**, the author thereof; therefore it is to be received because it is the Word of God.

5. We may be moved and induced by the testimony of the church of God to an high and reverent esteem of the Holy Scriptures; and the heavenliness of the matter, the efficacy of the doctrine, and the majesty of the style, the consent of all the parts, the scope of the whole (which is to give all glory to God), the full discovery it makes of the only way of man's salvation, and many other incomparable excellencies, and entire perfections thereof, are arguments whereby it doth abundantly evidence itself to be the Word of God; **yet notwithstanding, our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth, and divine authority thereof, is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit** bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts.

6. The whole counsel of God concerning **all** things necessary for his own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down or necessarily contained in the Holy Scripture: unto which **nothing** at any time is to be added, whether **by** new revelation of the Spirit, **or** traditions of men. Nevertheless, we acknowledge **the inward illumination of the Spirit of God** to be necessary for the saving understanding of such things as are revealed in the Word, and that there are some circumstances concerning the worship of God, and government of the church, common to human actions and societies, which are to be ordered by the light of nature and Christian prudence, according to the general rules of the Word, which are always to be observed.

8. The Old Testament in **Hebrew** (which was the native language of the people of God of old), and the New Testament in **Greek** (which at the time of the writing of it was most generally known to the nations), **being immediately inspired by God, and by his singular care and providence kept pure in all ages, are therefore authentic; so as in all controversies of religion, the church is finally to appeal to them.** But because these original tongues are not known to all the people of God, who have a right unto, and interest in the Scriptures, and are commanded in the fear of God to read and search them, **therefore they are to be translated into the vulgar language of every nation unto which they come**, that the Word of God dwelling plentifully in all, they may worship him in an acceptable manner, and through patience and comfort of the Scriptures may have hope.

What do we **mean** by “inspiration?”

- Plenary – all of it
- Verbal – every word
- God-breathed (θεόπνευστος)
- What Scripture says, God says!!!

- Emphasis is on the **finished / final** product and **not** the process

- The process is quite varied, the product is invariably one!

Hebrews 1:1 GOD, who at sundry times (Πολυμερῶς) and in divers manners (πολυτρόπως) **spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,****Hebrews 1:2** Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;**Hebrews 1:3** 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 on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Luke 24:25 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:**Luke 24:26** Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?**Luke 24:27** And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in **all** the scriptures the things concerning himself.

Historical processes:	Historical research:	Personal wisdom, experiences, & reflections:	Gospels & Epistles:	Thus saith the Lord:	Divine Dictation:
Prov. 25:1 Structure in Psalms: 1 & 2 3-41 (41:13) 42-72 (72:18-19) Note: 72:20 73-89 (89:52) 90-106 (106:48) 106-145 (145:21) 146-150 (120-134)	Luke 1:1-4 Num. 21:14 Josh. 10:13 2 Sam. 1:18 1 Chron. 29:29 2 Chron. 9:29 12:15 13:22 16:11 20:34 33:18 1 Kings 11:41 14:29 Esther 9:32	Psalm 13 Prov. 26:4,5 Ecc. 12:13-14	Jn. 14:25-26 15:26 16:12-13 R T Sh R 1 Cor. 14:36-38		Ex. 31:18 32:15-16 Deut 9:9-11

EXCURSUS ON ἄνωθεν : From the top of / first part of the story

Luke 1:1 FORASMUCH as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, **Luke 1:2** Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word; **Luke 1:3** It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from **the very first (ἄνωθεν)**, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, **Luke 1:4** That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.

Luke 1:21 And **the people** waited for Zacharias, and marvelled that he tarried so long in the temple. **Luke 1:22** And when he came out, he could not speak unto **them**: and **they** perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless.

Luke 1:59 And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father. **Luke 1:60** And his mother answered and said, Not *so*; but he shall be called John. **Luke 1:61** And they said unto her, There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name. **Luke 1:62** And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called. **Luke 1:63** And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. **And they marvelled all.** **Luke 1:64** And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue *loosed*, and he spake, and praised God. **Luke 1:65** **And fear came on all that dwelt round about them: and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judaea.** **Luke 1:66** **And all they that heard them laid them up in their hearts,** saying, What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of the Lord was with him.

Luke 2:17 And when **they** had seen *it*, **they made known abroad the saying** which was told them concerning this child. **Luke 2:18** **And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.** **Luke 2:19** **But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.**

Luke 2:25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name *was* Simeon; and the same man *was* just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. **Luke 2:26** And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. **Luke 2:27** And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, **Luke 2:28** Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and

said, **Luke 2:29** Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart In peace, according to thy word: **Luke 2:30** For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, **Luke 2:31** Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; **Luke 2:32** A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. **Luke 2:33** And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.

Luke 2:36 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age... **Luke 2:38** And she coming...and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

Luke 2:51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: **but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.**

Thoughts:

- **The process is varied, the product is not varied**
- **We must not confuse the means with the result / endpoint**
- **The text is inspired not the men**
- **The text is preceded by an immense range of providential and gracious activities.**
- **Concurrence &/ superintendence: informing, directing, prompting, forming...each writer preparing them for their part of the work.**
- **Plus the original endowments, education, special information, providential position, imagination, mental ability....**

So what does this consist of?

1. Providential preparation of the man / author

Ephesians 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

Genesis 45:1 Then Joseph could not refrain himself before all them that stood by him; and he cried, Cause every man to go out from me. And there stood no man with him, while Joseph made himself known unto his brethren. **Genesis 45:2** And he wept aloud: and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard. **Genesis 45:3** And Joseph said unto his brethren, I *am* Joseph; doth my father yet live? And his brethren could not answer him; for they were troubled at his presence. **Genesis 45:4** And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I *am* Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. **Genesis 45:5** Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: **for God did send me before you to preserve life. Genesis 45:6** For these two years *hath* the famine *been* in the land: and yet *there are* five years, in the which *there shall* neither *be* earing nor harvest. **Genesis 45:7** And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. **Genesis 45:8** So now *it was* not you *that* sent me hither, **but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt. Genesis 45:9** Haste ye, and go up to my father, and say unto him, Thus saith thy son Joseph, **God hath made me lord of all Egypt: come down unto me, tarry not:**

The all-inclusiveness of God’s providence it difficult to overestimate!

“If you want to train a man, begin with his grandparents!”

Galatians 1:15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb, and called *me* by his grace, **Jeremiah 1:5** Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, *and* I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

Basic humanity	Cultural environment	Time & place
Education +/-	Abilitites	Mental ability
Style interests	Social standing	Political situation*

2. Supernatural supervision of the process

Acts 4:27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, **Acts 4:28** For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done. **Matthew 26:24** The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born.

2 Samuel 23:1 Now these *be* the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, And the man *who was* raised up on high, The anointed of the God of Jacob, And the sweet psalmist of Israel, said, **2 Samuel 23:2** **The Spirit of the LORD spake by me**, And his word *was* in my tongue.

Psalms 33:6 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; And all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

This is no big deal *until* you consider all the moving parts!!! God is great and greatly to be praised!

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2 Peter 1:20 Knowing this first, that **no** prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. **2 Peter 1:21** For the prophecy **came** (ἤνεχθη) **not** in old time by the will of man: **but holy men of God spake as they were moved (φερόμενοι) by the Holy Ghost.**

Acts 27:15 And when the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind, **we let her drive (εφερόμεθα)**. **Acts 27:17** Which when they had taken up, they used helps, undergirding the ship; and, fearing lest they should fall into the quicksands, strake sail, and **so were driven (εφέροντο)**.

Avoid mechanical analogies / single-cause fallacies. Instead this is a divine-human concursive operation – planning, leading, organizing, prompting, controlling....

Mark 12:36 For David himself said by the Holy Ghost, The LORD said to my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool.

Acts 1:16 Men *and* brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.

Acts 28:25 And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers,

3. Divine inspiration of the text

What Scripture says, God says!

Matthew 22:43 He saith unto them, **How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying,**

Mark 12:36 **For David himself said by the Holy Ghost**, The LORD said to my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool.

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Acts 28:25 And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers,

Hebrews 3:7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, **To day if ye will hear his voice,**

Hebrews 4:7 Again, he limiteth a certain day, **saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Hebrews 4:4 For he spake **in a certain place** of the seventh *day* on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.

Hebrews 5:6 **As he saith also in another place**, Thou *art* a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. **Hebrews 4:13** Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.