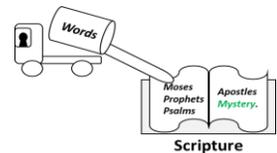


1. INTRODUCTION: Standards of Measurement

- The topic of today's lesson is *Sola Scriptura* – "Scripture Alone" – The Authority for Salvation
- "Set the standard, maintain the standard" – DPE's motto
- Standards imply a basis for measurement...of what though?
- There are many kinds of & ways to measure | All are compared to a standard
- Heaviness | Temperature | Time
- If you want the right measurement, you need the standard instrument to measure
- Weight = scale | Temp = thermo | Time = watch
- What about truth? What do you measure that with?
- Worldly Truth Authority: experience, tradition, feelings, circumstances, pastors, celebrities
- Today, we will appeal to God's word as The Standard – **Prov30:5,6**; Jn17:17; Rom3:4
- Formal Cause**. Referred to as the formal cause – from this come all other solas
- The framework that we'll be using today is one of construction...laying a foundation

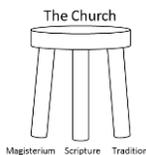
2. Laying the Foundation & Parameters of Truth

- Plan. Blueprints | God begins by speaking, writing declarative words – **Ex31:18**; Jer30:2; Isa46:10
- Material. Paste/aggregate | God uses purely magnified words (top-shelf) – **Ps12:6**; **138:2**
- Tools. Men: machines/forms | Godhead used men – Jer30:2; 2Pe1:21; Jn15:26; 1Cor2:13
- Pouring. The total time and content is predetermined...it's progressive, but contained by forms
- Phases! Revelation: Law/Prophets/Mystery – **Lu24:44**; **Cf. 2Pe3:15**; **Col1:25**; **Eph4:13**; **Cf. Ac20:27**
- Curing. 28 days | Once God has it all in place, the truth forever settled – **Ps119:89**
- Perfection. Engineers, no foundation perfect | God's testimony is perfect – Ps19:7
- While Catholics will agree with these points, they kept building...



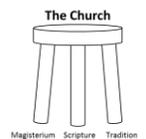
3. Competing Authorities

- 3-Legged Stool. 3-fold view of authority: Scripture, Tradition & the Magisterium
- Modes of Transmission. Two modes of transmitting the 'Word of God': **Written & Oral**
- Tradition: Unwritten words of God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, binding on men's conscience
- "[the Church] **does not** derive her certainty about all revealed truths from...Scriptures alone."
- Authentic Interpretation. of the Word of God (written or Tradition) comes only from the Church
- Proof Texts. Mt16:18,19; 28:19,20; Jn16:13; Lu10:16; **2Thess2:15**, etc.
- False Foundation. Sacred Tradition is erected outside of the parameters of God's written truth



4. Scripture vs. Traditions of Men

- If Scripture is... Inspired (2Tim3:16); Preserved (Ps12:6,7); Unbroken (Jn10:35); Engenders faith (Rom10:17), wisdom (2Tim3:15) & hope (Rom15:4) toward salvation in Christ
- Then what of Traditions? Opposed in Scripture as making the word of God vain – **Mt15:1-9**
- Scripture opposes commandments of men: philosophy & false science – Col2:8,22; 1Tim6:20



5. The Reformers Literal Pushback

- Definition. Some have said "People reading Paul..." and just. by faith, but it came from scripture
- Their main point. Scripture is sufficient, tradition insufficient. – 2Tim3:15-17
- Papacy Presses. Protestants push the primacy of scripture over 'the Church' (**Sola Scriptura**)



SOLA SCRIPTURA: Translation – Printing – Circulation Abounds!

Translators: Wycliffe (1380s) --> Print (1440) --> Luther (1522/1534) --> Tyndale (1525) --> Coverdale (1535) --> Calvin (1560)

English Bibles: Coverdale (1534), Matthews (1537), Great (1539), Taverner's (1539), Geneva (1560), Bishop's (1568-1606), **Authorized (1611)**

Complete English Bibles + NTs

1300s: 4 | 1400s: 0 | 1500s: 31 (hundreds today)

**Translated into 15 new languages*

Coverdale *"It shall greatly help ye to understand the Scriptures if thou mark not only what is spoken or written, but of whom and to whom, with what words, at what time, where, to what intent, with what circumstances, considering what goeth before and what followeth after."*

Zwingli's 67 Articles (1523)

"The articles and opinions below, I...confess to have preached in...Zurich as based upon the Scriptures...where I have not now correctly understood said Scriptures I shall allow myself to be taught better, but only from said Scriptures...Let no one undertake here to argue with sophistry or human foolishness, but come to the Scriptures to accept them as the judge, so that the truth either may be found, or if found, as I hope, retained. Amen."

The Ten Conclusions of Berne (1528)

Conclusion 2: *"The Church of Christ makes no laws and commandments without the Word of God. Hence human traditions are no more binding on us than they are founded in the Word of God."*

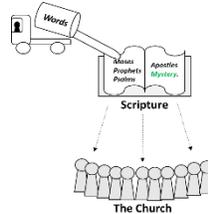
First Helvetic Confession (1536)

- d. Persecution ensues. (1400s) Translation of Holy Scripture into any language was heresy.
- e. Sacrifice for Scripture (Foxe). Many died for Scripture to be in the hands of the people...
- f. Tyndale (Strangled & burned, 1536). In response to an appeal to the Pope's law over God's:

I defy the Pope and all his laws...if God spare my life ere many years, I will cause a boy that driveth the plough, shall know more of the scriptures than thou dost.

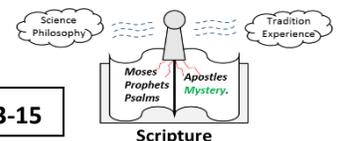
6. Modern Data

- a. And now... the Bible is in 600+ languages & **92% of Americans have a copy...**
- b. However, it has been referred to as **"the greatest story never read."**
- c. Today, Catholics & Protestants alike are Biblically illiterate
- d. In fact, today, the majority of U.S. Protestants hold the Catholic position on Scripture & Tradition
- e. While people find their authority for truth in anything but the Bible, we need to hold it forth...



7. The Man of God: A Settled Co-Laborer

- a. God's word is settled, and we're to be settled on it
- b. We affirm that Scripture is... Sufficient to thoroughly equip men to all good works – 2Tim3:16,17
- c. Ministers of God are to be: Stablished (Rom16:25), rooted & grounded (Eph3:16-19), grounded & settled (Col1:23-25), founded & fixed (1Tim3:15), approved (2Cor6:4-7), sanctified, cleansed (Eph5:26,29) & nourished (1Tim4:6) to live (Mt4:4), walk (2Cor5:7), run (1Cor9:26) and fight (Eph6:10-17) by the rule, which is every word of God (Heb4:12).



Eph 4:13-15

8. Conclusion

- a. God spoke, Jesus affirmed, the Spirit inspired & we are to hold fast the form of sound words
- b. Reformers were right in appealing to God's word alone as the final authority & sole rule of faith
- c. Will we do the same? **Yes, let God's word be true and every man a liar!**