**Sola – Scripture alone - I love it!**

**I love God word - It is God primary method of speaking to mankind.**

**Our old family bible – wrapped up to keep it from falling apart.**

**It has been miraculously preserved for us - as it’s perpetually attacked and under fire for thousands of years. Attempts to eradicate it and discredit it. Have failed.**

**And – most believers rarely if ever read it for themselves**

**36% of people read the Bible at least once a month – Barna (Down 11%)**

**Only 5% say the Bible is the center of their choices and practice – Barna**

**Many have a downgraded reading since Covid-19 (US adults Bible use dropped from 14% to 9% percent - American Bible Society (ABS). with a community that is already lacking in the discipline of reading it.**

**Over the next few weeks, we are going to take a journey though God’s word. A flyover - The Bible as a whole and Break the Code and mystery**

**My Goal - I want to help you develop a love and hunger for God’s word- the passion and confidence to read it and apply it.**

**\*\* To realize it’s a love letter from a Father to His kids.**

**Longest chap in Bible is Psalm 119, deals exclusively w/ the written Word of God. It consists of 176 verses - each verse has something to say about God’s Word. (w/ a couple exceptions).**

**Psalm 119:97: "O, how I love thy law! It is my meditation all the day."**

**I pray by the end of this you can say, “Oh how I loves God’s word!”**

**Why is this series called Sola? Sola (Latin for alone / only)**

**Approaches to the Bible: Sola Scriptura Vs. Prima Scriptura**

**Sola Scriptura – Only Scripture / Scripture Alone**

**(Acts 17:11, 1 Corinthians 4:6, Mark 7:6-9, 2 Timothy 2:15, 2 Tim 4:2) Bible alone is the source of truth and instruction as properly understood. All practice, customs, traditions, and truth are subject to the Bible.**

**Prima Scriptura – First Scripture / Scripture Above (Acts 15:6-30)**

**Start with eh bible – then are other guides to follow - such as created order, tradition, mystical insight, special revelation, common sense, expert opinions, experience, practicality, church authority, cultural relevance, and at times accepts secondary authority.**

**Catholic, Anglican, Wesleyan, Methodist: quadrilateral are:**

**(1) Scripture, (2) tradition, (3) reason, and (4) experience.**

**Unfortunately, many would rather have an experience than the disciple to knowing God’s word. Experience can be a counterfeit to true spirituality.**

**\*\* The Bible alone is the source of truth in life and faith – Sola Scriptura**

**How do we know this?**

**2 Timothy 3:12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, (if you want to live for Jesus – many people will not like you) 13 while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. (not just in the culture – but also in the church)**

**14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it (who you learn things from matters) 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.**

**Sacred writings = of the prophets (OT) and the apostles (NT)**

**16 All Scripture (of the prophets and the apostles) is breathed out by God (from God) and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (we will break this down in weeks to come)**

**The Bible is complete and authoritative. Some will try to lead you away from the Word – but do not be deceived…**

**Only God’s Word is God breathed - inspired.**

**(Paul instructs) 1 Corinthians 4:6 I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, (I apply this to myself) that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another.**

**What is written by the prophets, and the apostles - including the gospels and the NT letters – we must not go beyond.**

**Mark 7:8 Jesus criticized those who let tradition override the Word of God. The bible is to be the final word on life and faith.**

**Again, I pray that by the end of this you will value and fall in love with God’s word. Over the weeks to come - How to fall in love – w/ the Bible!**

**Let’s take a look at what being in Love with God’s word produces:**

**Psalm 1:1 Blessed (content, at peace, joy) is the one who walks not in the counsel (some say in step) of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, (the way / path – there is a path that leads to death) nor sits in the seat of scoffers; (company of mockers)**

**Notice the progression – Walk – Stand – Sit**

* **Walk – (listening) passing counsel – thinking**
* **Stand – (participating) listening intently – behaving**
* **Sit – (fit in) fully engaged – belonging– at home with**

**Sin is often progressive – one thing leads to another**

**2 but (blessed is the one) whose delight (pleasure, joy, love) is in the law of the Lord, (to know the pleasure of God’s Word) 2 and who meditates on his law day and night.**

**To know the pleasure and joy of God’s word!**

**Martin Luther said that he could not live in paradise without the word of God, but he could live well enough in hell with it.**

**To truly find the joy & pleasure of God’s word, we need the HS to help us to discover the great things that result from it. To see the value of it.**

**Content / fulfilled is the one who loves it and meditates on it**

**Psalm 1:2 …who meditates on his law day and night.**

**It’s not a Sunday or weekend thing, or a once a week, or 15 minutes a day thing – it is an all-day – all night thing –**

**Meditate = to speak to self, think on, dissect it, repeat it, ponder it**

**Gets it inside of you. It has been said we only need to think about God’s words two times a day – daytime and nighttime. (covers it all)**

**Those who know God and Words know where to find counsel**

**Using a word picture – the writer then tells us**

**What happens when we learn to love and delight in God’s word!**

**To learn to love it and find joy it results in…**

**Psalm 1:3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither and whatever they do prospers.**

**Being planted – Secure (confident and unmovable)**

**Strong and unshakable – when the world is going to crazy town – you are secure!**

**By streams of water – Nourished**

**When everyone else is drying up – there is continual source of nourishment – come rain or shine. You are growing!**

**Yields fruit – Fruitful**

**The fruit is result of the Word in you – growing.**

**Your life reflects the word – Gal 5 Fruit of the HS (John 15:5)**

**In season – Consistent**

**Seasonal and consistent fruit (not flakey). In every season – your patiently trust in the God whose word is true.**

**Leaf does not wither – (Spiritually) Alive**

**Brown, dead withered leaves are signs of death. Those delighting in God’s word – don’t have signs of death but life.**

**Psalm 1:3 …and whatever they do prospers. Success**

**Not so-called success the world tries to promise that leaves us empty – but true blessings of God - Peace and contentment. Even causing bad circumstance to be for our good. (Ro 8:28)**

**When followers feel they are drifting from their passion from God – feeling insecure, spiritually dry, unfruitful, inconsistent walk, struggling w/ sin, feeling dead and depressed…**

**Where is your love – for God’s word? How is your time in God’s word?**

**When we find our self distant from God, we tend run to 3 things**

**Jeremiah 9:23This is what the LORD says: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, nor the strong man in his strength, nor the wealthy man in his riches.**

**The three areas we tend to place out confidence:**

**our own knowledge (education)**

**our own strength (health)**

**our own riches (wealth, positions, and relationships)**

**So often we seek out confidence in a pros and cons list, a well thought out plan, our knowledge of a subject, our health and fitness plan, our people, portfolio, position, and funds and savings.**

**24 But let him who boasts boast in this, (take confidence in this – lean into this) that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, who exercises loving devotion, justice and righteousness on the earth—for I delight in these things,” declares the LORD.…**

**How do we know him? How do we understand him? God reveals himself primarily through his Word of God by the Holy Spirit.**

**When you’re feeling dry and drifting… dig into the gift of God’s word – let it inspire, empower, and realign your life! How’s your love – for God’s word?**

**When Joshua was about to cross over the Jordan – Moses is gone… God I need you more than ever… praying God tells him – “don’t be afraid – I was with Moss, I will be with you…”**

**Then God tells him how to have this courage… Joshua 1:7 “Be strong and very courageous. (we love that part, God is for us… be strong but… this is how…) Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; (speak it) meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (this is very similar to what Psalm 1 says)**

**Those who learn to read it, know it, love it, live it, do it, walk it, meditate on it, obey it, and do not turn from it…**

**Notice it says - Being careful to 7“obey all of it” – 8 “do everything in it” - We don’t get to pick and choose what we like or don’t like in it.**

**When that happens, “Then you will be prosperous and successful.”**

**We find joy and contentment - and confidence that the Lord is with us!**

**I want to end with a story about the power of God’s word.**

**One of our young adults – (Michael Pham) His attending the Zone – to us meeting – to him reading the Gospel of Mark – I believed it! I love the power of God’s word –**

**My opinions are not inspired – they cannot change your life…**

**But I know what can - the Word of God that lead to life in Jesus!!!**

**The Word of God – became flesh (John 1)**

**To love Jesus is to love the Word!**

**The word – God in the flesh – Jesus stepped into our life to live the Word, fulfill the Word, and give his life for salvation.**