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

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

**For 1000’s of years it has been perpetually attacked and under fire - attempts to erase, eradicate it, and discredit it – have failed!**

**- people have banned it and hell bent on destroying it – and failed!**

**We are taking a journey thru God’s word - to Break the Code & mystery**

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

**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!”**

**The Primary Themes (Jesus is the word – made flesh (John 1)**

**\*\* To Know the Word is to know Jesus**

**\*\* To love Jesus is to love his Words**

**Why is this called Sola? (Latin for alone / only) One of the 5 Solas:**

* **Sola Scriptura (Scripture alone)** - **Bible alone is our authority**
* **Sola Fide (Faith alone)** - **Saved through faith alone**
* **Sola Gratia (Grace alone) - By the grace alone**
* **Solus Christus (Christ alone)** **Through Jesus Christ alone**
* **Soli Deo Gloria (Glory of God alone)** - **For the glory of God alone.**

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

**The Bible alone is the source of truth and instruction. All practice, customs, traditions, and experience are subject to the Bible.**

**1 Corinthians 4:6 I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, 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’s written by the prophets & apostles – not to go beyond.**

**Three Great Roles of Scripture**

**1 Peter 1:22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth (the truth is God’s word) for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, 23 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; (the word of God – was the eternal seed that gave us truth that leads to salvation in Jesus)**

**3 Great Rolls of Scripture (The Bible)**

**1. To lead us to the knowledge of salvation - 23 “…you have been born again… through the living and abiding word of God…”**

**2 Tim 3:15 - you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.**

**The knowledge of God’s great love – to know Jesus – to know the cross and the resurrection.**

**2. To mature us in our salvation - 22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth…**

**To grow in the word is to mature in our faith – sanctification – the process of being set apart for Christ.**

**3. To mature us in our love for others - 22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth (God’s word) for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart…**

**To grow in the word is to mature in the character of Christ – ultimately growing in our compassion and love for others.**

**\*\* Sola Scriptura - The Bible alone is able to do this**

* **But – how can we trust the Bible to tell us the truth – is it reliable?**

**The Ancient Lie - Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?” (Are you sure? Did he really say that? Planting doubt of God’s Word) 2 The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” (She takes the doubt to the next level - adding to the word of God our unfair impressions of God) 4 “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. (The Bile is not true – it did not and will not happen) 5 “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (God is holding you back – he does not want to experience real life – fun)**

**Satan’s Ancient lie from the beginning – God’s word is unreliable at best and not true at worst. So, don’t believe it.**

**I get it often – you don’t really believe it do you?**

**My copy of the bible (page) and the authentication- This ensure this is not a fake. Do we have something that tells us this is not a fake. YES.**

**Today we are going to get little academic – aka. Apologetics. You can go to school for 4 yrs or pay attention next 25 min.**

**Let’s take a look at some - Objections to the Bible**

1. **But – how could the apostle’s writings be considered – the word of God? The NT did not exist yet? They were not referring to them?**

**Many try to invalidate the NT – claiming it was not the Word of God.**

**When it says - 2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is breathed out by 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.**

**How can we be sure it is talking about the apostle’s writings (NT)?**

**- The gospels & letters often quoted by each other as the Word of God**

**(Next verse in…) 1 Peter 1:22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth… 23 since you have been born again… through the living and abiding word of God; (Quotes Isaiah 40:8) 24 for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, 25 but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the Gospel that was preached to you.**

**Peter compares the gospel (apostle’s teaching and writings) to the eternal Word of God - affirming their authority and equal.**

**1 Timothy 5:18 - Paul quoted passages from Luke calling them scripture**

**2 Peter 3:15-17 - Peter referred to Paul’s writings as scripture equal to OT**

**- Jesus commissioned the Apostles future writings as the Word of God**

**John 14:26 But when the Father sends the Counselor as my representative—and by the Counselor I mean the Holy Spirit — he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I myself have told you.**

**John 16:12 “Oh, there is so much more I want to tell you, but you can’t bear it now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not be presenting his own ideas; he will be telling you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. 14 He will bring me glory by revealing to you whatever he receives from me. 15 All that the Father has is mine; this is what I mean when I say that the Spirit will reveal to you whatever he receives from me.**

**Jesus prophesied 17X that the apostles would provide the gospel**

**Jesus confirmed it while it was being preached several times**

**An example - Acts 23:11 Jesus appeared to Paul in a vision and told him his words were Gospel truth that saves – and will take it to Rome.**

**They carried authority – Apostle of Jesus (Messenger of Jesus)**

**When we read passages in the NT referring to scripture – the writing of the apostles was definitely considered the Word of God.**

1. **But - Wasn’t it just written by men? Scripture is from God not man**

**2 Peter 1:20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophets themselves 21 or because they wanted to prophesy. It was the Holy Spirit who moved the prophets to speak from God.**

**More on this next week.**

1. **But - the bible has been changed over the years – translations**

**Let me show you something – chart of God’s word verses other history manuscripts/ The most accurate than any other ancient manuscript.**

* **Homers Iliad - (2nd most abundant) – 643 copies – 500 years from original**
* **Julius Caesar - Gallic wars – 10 copies – 1000 years from original**
* **Herodotus – Histories – 8 copies – 1300 years from original**
* **Plato – Tetralogies – 7 copies – 1200 years from original**
* **Pliny the Younger – History – 7 copies – 750 years from original**
* **Aristotle – poetics – (49) 5 whole copies – 1400 years from original**
* **Tacitus – history – (20) 1 whole copy – 900 years from original**
* **New Testament – 24,000 copies – copies 40 to 70 yrs from original event**
* **Quoted by ancient historians as fact.**

**Transcribed in precious detail. Today’s NT has an accuracy of 99.5% to the original - greater than any other ancient manuscript, it is iron clad.**

**Not to mention the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls – 2000 yr old OT.**

**Internal and external evidence – speaks of its authenticity. It’s historical evidence, archeological, divine design, facts of life, prophetic evidence - and ability to supernaturally transform lives! It has survived time, persecution, higher criticism, & attack.**

**Do you realize what we have? It is reliable.**

1. **But - aren’t the Old testament stories just mythical and not real?**

**They seem a little over the top.**

**\* Who would know? Jesus. God in flesh. The Word made flesh.**

**Jesus said his words as from God and perfect**

**Mark 13:31 Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will remain forever.**

**Luke 24:27 Then Jesus quoted passages from the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining what all the Scriptures said about himself.**

**Luke 24:44-45 - 44 Then he said, “When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me by Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must all come true.” 45 Then he opened their minds to understand these many Scriptures.**

**John 12:48 But all who reject me and my message will be judged at the day of judgment by the truth I have spoken. 49 I don’t speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me gave me his own instructions as to what I should say. 50 And I know his instructions lead to eternal life; so I say whatever the Father tells me to say!”**

**Jesus, God incarnate - Word made flesh, said his words were perfect**

**He confirmed the Law and the prophets (the OT) to be the Word of God**

**He referred to the OT as fact – Calling it the authority of God 56 times**

**He quotes OT 81 times in relation to it being the authority on life issues**

**He quotes from all but 4 of the OT Hebrew books – 100% accurate**

**He referred to Adam & Eve, Noah & the ark, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joshua, the Judges, the prophets including Jonah and fish as real.**

**Matthew 5:18 I assure you, until heaven and earth disappear, even the smallest detail of God’s law will remain until its purpose is achieved.**

**Is the OT true? The greater question is - Do you believe Jesus is true?**

**John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**

1. **But – doesn’t the Bible contradicts itself?**

**“But the Gospels say different things…” Actually, its different points of view. Different eyes – omitting different details.**

**At our Bible studies - Write down what you experienced walking in. Similar but different. The OT & NT when properly compared and understood – stands the test.**

**No other literary piece exist like it that come close - 1500 yrs, 40 diff authors of vastly diff backgrounds and cultures, on 3 diff continents, in 4 different languages, 66 books… yet miraculously integrated and without 1 single contradiction and 1 single message – JESUS!**

**It talks about everything that relates to mankind – from our origins to our eternity - our problems and the solutions.**

1. **The – isn’t the Bible open to interpretation?**

**Used to control / hurt people. Some have used it to fit an agenda and morals. For good and for evil. We can interpret in many different ways.**

**But it was written with one understanding. We must seek to read it the way the original readers would have and then try to apply to our life. Using the character of God and His attributes as our lens.**

**People twist the Bible to suit themselves – the NT warns of this.**

**Unlike any other religious text that ever existed – The Bible can be tested and authenticated and proven reliable.**

**\*\*\* Are you looking for answers or are you looking for excuses?**

**Matthew 7:** **6 “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces. (there are those who ask questions not to get answers to have excuses – they don’t really want to know the truth) 7 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.**

**9 “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!**

**Jesus give Four thoughts for those truly hungry for truth:**

1. **Ask – Ask God, ask leaders, ask the hard questions**

**(and it will be giving)**

1. **Seek – search for the truth, not just a couple google searches, but dig – pursue, chase, search (and you will find)**
2. **Knock – means keep on knocking. Don’t give up when you get confused or hit a wall. Keep on knocking (and the door will open)**
3. **Remember - the Father is good and wants you to know him.**

**He is not hiding, playing tricks on you, or messing with you.**

**\*\*\* Are you looking for answers or are you looking for excuses?**

**Many deny the miraculous reliability of the bible because they do not want to believe what it says.**

**\* How could God really love me and forgive me?**

**Many deny the miraculous reliability of the bible because they do not want to submit to what it says.**

**\* That God is calling you to lay down your life and follow Jesus**

**A love for God’s word – is a sign of a true follower of Jesus**

**Only someone born-again can truly understand the Bible**

**Wk 4 - I understand the Bible - Some Bible Basics**

**It claims to be the absolute Truth**

**It has one singular theme**

**It has one singular message**

1. **Wasn’t it just written by men? Scripture is from God not man**

**2 Peter 1:20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophets themselves 21 or because they wanted to prophesy. It was the Holy Spirit who moved the prophets to speak from God.**

**More on this next week.**

**Part 2 – you can’t trust the bible – keys to reading the bible**