**Sola – Scripture alone - I Understand It!**

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

**We are taking a journey thru God’s word**

**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.**

**Our 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)**

**It is one of the Fundamental Five Solas**

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

**The Bible alone is the final authority truth and instruction.**

**2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture (the prophets and apostles) 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.**

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

**But what good is it – if we don’t read it – For many that is because many find the bible hard to understand.**

**Today’s let’s break the code, so you can have the confidence to read it.**

**Some Bible Fundamentals: Break the Code**

**Familiarize yourself with a weapon gun – if you don’t it can be dangerous if you try to use it.**

1. **The Bible is a book about God’s love affair with people.**

**The core message of the Bible is the Love of God – coupled with all his other attributes – they all flow form his love. Justice, mercy, goodness**

**God is love… (1 John 4:8). It’s a core of his character**

**God’s love includes every person (John 3:16)**

**His character doesn’t change (James 1:17)**

**The OT is summed up in “Love the LORD your God with…” (Ma 22:37)**

**Displayed and embodied in Jesus Christ**

1. **The Bible is mostly history – but it is much more than history.**

**The Bible is a book about God’s salvation for His creation**

**SALVATION HISTORY 101 – create timeline**

* **Adam and Eve were created perfect (very good)**
* **Adam fell into sin, and consequently, away from God**
* **The cycle of sin and grace of the decedents of Abraham**
* **God used Abrahams family (Jewish people) to bring his chosen anointed savior (the messiah – the Christ) into the world to save the world.**
* **Jesus came and saved us spiritual**
* **Jesus is coming back to save us physically**

**No other literary piece exist like it that come close**

**40 diff authors of vastly diff backgrounds and cultures, (Moses: politician / shepherd, Joshua: general, Solomon: king, Samuel: a judge, Amos: farmer, Peter: fisherman, Luke: doctor, Matthew: tax collector, Paul: tent maker)**

**Over 1500 yrs, 3 diff continents, 4+ diff languages, 66 books, miraculously integrated and without 1 single contradiction and with 1 single great message – JESUS!**

**It is the only word that can transform a life. (It is not Harry Potter)**

**1 Peter 1:23-25 (Quoting Is 40)** **For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For, “All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;** **the grass withers and the flowers fall, 25 but the word of the Lord endures forever.” And this is the word that was preached to you.**

**It is not just another religious book – Books come and go…**

**Psalm 119:89 Your word, O LORD, is everlasting; it is firmly fixed in the heavens**

**It was given by God to solidify in writing the heart of God - to bring us life transformation for His eternal glory!**

1. **The Bible was given through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.**

**Jesus affirmed the OT as the eternal Word of God and commissioned the apostles to write what we call the NT- the eternal word of God.**

**1 Tim 3:16 – All Scripture is God breathed (inspired, breathed out)…**

**The word is breathed out – not breathed in. God did not delegate it and make it inspired - He miraculously breathed out of them by the Spirit His words his message.**

**Is it inspiring or expiring? Since God always speaks truth – we can be confident that is w/out error and will not lead us astray (last wk)**

**No mistakes - reliable authority – Sola Scriptura**

**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.**

**They were not robots – each expressed the Word of God with their own personalities, language, grammar, & cultural context.**

**1 Corinthians 2:13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. (inspired words of the prophets and apostles)**

**The Bible is Cannon (reed = measure) OT was Cannon by 70AD. The NT was circulated as it was being written and 27 were considered inspired.**

**PIC - Floating false letters called for a Council in 397AD – meeting in Carthage, they asked questions about the authorship, authority, and orthodoxy = the 27 were confirmed and closed. Cannon = reed.**

**100’s of letter and books did not make it.**

**The early church didn’t decide which books made it into the Bible. They recognized that books already inspired, used, and accepted.**

**Given By God – Treat as God's Word (give weight to it)**

1. **The Bible is not meant to be read from front to back**

**The Bible was assembled – 66 collected books, prophecies, and letters.**

**The Bible is a library not a book - It was not written in chronological order; it overlaps and double backs.**

**The Structure of the Bible –Break the Code**

**2 Division: Testament is better understood as “Covenant”**

* **Old T (39 books) - Creation, fall, and Gods promise**
* **New T (27 books) - Arrival of the promise (4 Gospels, 23 letters)**

**Hebrews 8:8-12 – the new covenant**

**The OT – has four sections - OT Division slide**

**The Torah books, History Books, Poetry and wisdom Books, Prophets**

**The NT - has three sections - NT Division slide**

**The Gospel, The Acts, The letters**

**Chap and verses were added later - not in the original and not inspired.**

**They were added for convenience – only 500 years ago.**

**They are helpful but can also be problematic – as it leads to places were thoughts and chapters are divided – and misquotes.**

1. **The Bible was not written to us, but it was preserved for us**

**That means -**

**To understand the Bible for us, we need to understand it for them.**

**2 Tim 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.**

**We must know what is says before we can properly apply what is says.**

**NT was written 2000 yrs ago (OT 3500+ yrs). We don’t have kings, heard sheep, live in tribes, live in mud and straw homes, follow mosaic priesthood, travel by mules, write on papyrus or clay tablets, or speak Aramaic or Hebrew - Our life and culture are not the same.**

**We often read the Bible with false assumptions. We must understand its sense for them before we can see its significance for us. Apply it to their life first then your life.**

**Bible Gymnastics: The Reality Is**

**Many willingly twist scriptures (distort) – 2 Cor 4:2**

**Many unintentionally twist the scriptures (misunderstand) – 2 Pet 3:16**

**2 Radical Truths About the Bible**

**\* If the Bible is true (which it claims) then it is true for everyone.**

**In order for something to be true it has to be absolutely true for everyone – it is powerfully true!**

**The Bible not like fairies – they live if you believe in them.**

**With or without you – it is true! You do not make it so.**

**Hebrews 4:12 (Eph 617) – A sword that cuts us**

**Jeremiah 23:29 – A hammer that breaks us**

**Jeremiah 5:14 – A fire that consumes us**

**Psalm 119:105 – A lamp that guides us**

**\* Only someone born-again can truly understand the Bible (John 16:13)**

**The Bible is a love letter from a father to his kids**

**1 Corinthians 1:18 – For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**

**1 Corinthians 2:10 …these are the things (The gospel - Jesus crucified) God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. 11 For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? (ever look at your dog and wonder what he’s thinking – you can guess but no one knows - cats) In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. (Enter Jesus – God with skin. The HS sent by Jesus)**

**What a child of God believes (trusts) is diff than what those who are not Christian believe. About what? Everything that truly matters, everything. Paul says the world is clueless – they have no idea what God thinks without the HS within.**

**12 What we have received (The HS at Salvation) is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, (Why are we given the HS?) so that we may understand what God has freely given us. (to understand the gospel truth)**

**13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. (inspired words of the prophets and apostles)**

**When you become born again – the Spirit begins to explain and reveal to you spiritual truth. You start to understand – sin, grace, justice, heaven, hell, salvation. Words rarely used in context outside of Christianity. But now they matter.**

**You may know a lot – read a lot – study a lot – be smart and well experienced - but do you understand the spiritual truth of - your sin? That word that can only be truly understood by the Spirit. I’m evil. I need a savior. Okay, now what? JESUS, the cross - grace - mercy - faith. \* Without the Spirit they are just words on a page.**

**1 Corinthians 2:14 The person without the Spirit (someone not born-again) does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.**

**Without the HS – the natural person - sees the Bible as ancient history, out of date, and a waste of time, or restrictive - don’t be mad at them, they cannot understand.**

**It’s like the world has earbuds in, Your talking, but they don’t hear you - and just ignore you. You think they’re mean- no they’re just spiritually deaf. Blindfolded – how do you like my shirt – don’t get mad, they can’t see. Talking to a guy in a casket – you want to go get BBQ – how rude! Don’t get mad they can’t do anything about it – they’re spirit dead!**

**The natural man is spiritually blind, deaf, and dead – they are not dumb, not mean – they just don’t get it. They need a spiritual intervention to open their understanding.**

**It takes a miracle of the Holy Spirit to bring understanding. He draws, leads, softens, reveals, opens eyes and ears, breaks a rebellious, hard callous heart - and points to JESUS!**

**The natural man – sees all this as a waste of time, but**

**The spiritual man – sees all this as a salvation line**

**1 Cor 2:15 The person with the Spirit makes judgments (discerns and examines) about all things, (thru the Word of God and HS) but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, (don’t sweat their misguided judgement of you. The natural person is not in a place to judge spiritual truth) 16 for, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ. (FYI – Paul is quoting Isaiah 40:14 – calling Christ the LORD – Yahweh)**

**God illuminates diff things in the Word to diff people – but will never contradict himself. The HS is the teacher – He is making the truth clear to those born-again - when we read the Bible.**

**We find throughout scripture those who are following Jesus – have a hunger for God’s Word**

**Jeremiah 15:16 – Food that brings joy and delight**

**Matthew 4:4 – the most important food you’ll ever eat**

**1 Peter 2:2 – Milk for more mature growth**

**Ps 119:1-3 – Like sweet honey on my lips**

**1 Tim 4:6 – God’s Word is nourishment**

**Are you listening today and getting hungry – for God’s word?**

**Are you hungry to know the Bible and to understand it?**

**Start with the gospels – meet Jesus. (Mark, Luke – then Acts)**

**Only someone born-again can truly understand the Bible – are you ready?**