



Links Players

Five Solas - Scripture Alone

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world... (Hebrews 1:1-3, ESV).

What would you give for a letter from Bobby Jones, especially if it was written to you? More than a few people are willing to spend significant money to have one. One handwritten letter would be an immensely valuable keepsake. I couldn't hang it on my office wall fast enough.

Reading his letters and books gives me almost everything I need to know short of knowing Bobby Jones personally. If we enjoy reading letters written by Bobby Jones, how much more when reading letters from The Christ of God—Scripture?

In this "all-time best-seller," we learn who God is, why he made us, who we are, what went wrong with the world, why and how he redeemed us, and what his purposes are in this life and the life to come.

When scholars of church history use the phrase Sola Scriptura, they are not suggesting that Scripture is God's only means of communication. They mean it is the final authority on matters of faith and life. Accordingly, Scripture is known as God's Special Revelation.

Those who went before us were crystal clear that God communicates via his creation, known as his General Revelation. General Revelation is what God communicates through the "natural light" of Creation.

Through what has been made, we know that God is, that God is all-powerful, that God is eternal, that God is invisible, and that God is angry at our sinfulness (Romans 1: 16-32; Psalm 19). Consequently, every person ever born "knows God," even if that knowledge is not saving knowledge.

We know many other things via the created order, but there are more than a few things we could never know through our investigations of creation. The internal world of our conscience and the external world of the cosmic order and beauty are "mute" about salvation.

Living our lives without that which God has communicated in Scripture leaves us "in the dark" about a whole host of things, especially the things of ultimate concern—a right relationship with the Father through Christ Jesus being the most important one.

When we profess Sola Scriptura, we are not suggesting that Councils, Creeds, Confessions, and Catechisms from church history aren't important. We

are saying that Scripture Alone has final authority over all human documents, no matter how helpful those other documents are in helping us understand God's ultimate revelation found in Scripture Alone!

From the natural light of creation, we can learn how to plant and harvest crops, build enormously successful enterprises, properly swing a golf club, and a billion other things.

Yet, we can never know God's mysteries apart from what he has revealed exclusively in Scripture. And to know those "revealed secrets," we must also have the Holy Spirit as our illuminating tutor.

As Saint Augustine writes regarding Scripture, "Take up and read!"

Prayer: Lord, send out your light and truth and let them lead us to your holy hill.

READING: 2 Peter 1:16-21; 2 Timothy 3:12-17;
1 Peter 1:10-12; 1 Corinthians 10:1-11.

1. Most golfers have memorabilia; it's "a thing." What golf collectibles do you own, and why are they meaningful? This could make for good discussions.

2. After reading the four suggested texts, list your observations regarding what these verses teach us about Scripture.

3. Application: By God's grace, let's resolve to sit at his feet and listen to his voice from Scripture as the Holy Spirit teaches us, reshapes us, and makes us useful to the Master. What might that practically look like in your life?
