

# The Five Solas

OF THE REFORMATION

---

[PART 1]

## SOLA SCRIPTURA

*Reading: Psalm 119:97 - 107*

---

### Introduction

- [1 Samuel 3:1]. In Luther's day "the Word of the Lord was rare in those days." Why?
- All Bibles written in Latin.
- All books were handwritten.
- The Bible had been banned by the RCC at the Council of Valencia in 1229.
- To possess a Bible or translate it into English carried the death sentence.
- The Light had been hidden by the church for centuries. Hence the '*Dark Ages*'.

### 1 Luther's Discovery Of The Bible

- Luther had only heard odd texts of the NT quoted in church services.
- While studying for his Master's degree in the university of Erfurt he stumbled across a Bible in the library.
- He read it and read it and read it again.
- He prayed that one day God would give him his copy of the Bible one day.
- He was about 20 - 22 when he discovered the Bible in the library.
- The Reformation was sleeping in that Bible. Luther was about to wake it up.
- He entered the monastery and they gave him his own copy of the Bible.

- Luther came to see that '*Justification was by grace through faith.*'
- As he kept reading he began to see other great truths.

## **2 The Five Solas**

- The word '*sola*' is a Latin word meaning '*alone*'.
- This was a keyword for the Reformation.
- For Catholicism '*et*' or '*and*' was their keyword.
- There were 5 sola's and they are still relevant today.

## **3 'Sola Scriptura'**

- This principle was about the Bible being the chief authority deciding faith and practice.
- Consider: [Psalm 119:89], [Matthew 24:35], [Isaiah 8:20], [John 17:17], [2 Timothy 3:16].

## **4 'Et Scriptura'**

- Rome acknowledged the authority of the Bible but exalted the decrees and traditions of the church over it.
- For the reformers the Bible could be trusted because it came from the God of truth.
- Luther said: "popes can err, council can err, but not Holy Scripture."
- The Reformers had in mind the '*Great Schism*' when for a time Rome had 2 rival popes and then at one time three rival popes all claiming they were the right one.
- The popes and councils taught things that could not be found in the Bible.
- At other times they insisted on things condemned by the Bible.
- For example. In 786AD the worship of the cross and images and relics. [Exodus 20:4/5].

## **5 'Sola Scriptura' Today**

- Scripture alone is our authority. Not some church tradition.
- Our government and parliaments are lower authorities than the Bible.
- [Acts 5:29] "We ought to obey God rather than men."

### **Conclusion:**

- We need once again to get serious about our Bibles.
- Reading them and reflecting upon what we read.
- Thinking Biblically, living Biblically and when we do that we are most pleasing to God.

---

**Teaching Biblically • Thinking Biblically • Living Biblically**

**Whitewell Metropolitan Tabernacle** 837-869 Shore Road Belfast BT15 4HS  
Tel: 028 9077 7074 Email: [info@whitewell.church](mailto:info@whitewell.church)  
**www.whitewell.church**