

Session 1: Scripture

(First Pause)

Read John 17:17, Psalm 119:160, Psalm 12:6 and Proverbs 30:5

What do they all have in common, and therefore, what do they say about scripture?

All touch on the truth of Scripture. Scripture is true/trustworthy/inerrant

(Second Pause)

Read 2 Timothy 3:16, Colossians 2:8, Galatians 1:8, and Psalm 19:7-14

What do they all have in common, and therefore, what do they say about scripture?

All touch on Scripture's completeness, or the lack of need of things from outside Scripture.

Scripture is all we require/sufficient

(Third Pause)

Read Mark 7:6-9, 1 Corinthians 4:6, and Acts 17:11

What do they all have in common, and therefore, what do they say about scripture?

All touch on the authority of Scripture. Scripture is the standard/authoritative

(Final Section)

Read 2 Timothy 3:16 and 2 Peter 1:21

Why is Scripture's nature as "God-breathed" significant?

It is because Scripture is from God that it has authority and the supernatural ability to speak into our lives

Do you think it's correct to call the Scriptures a gift?

Answers will vary (hopefully yes)

"The Bible, as originally given, is the inspired and infallible Word of God. It is the supreme authority in all matters of belief and behaviour." – Doctrinal Basis of UCCF: point C

Now you've seen that scripture is inerrant, sufficient, and authoritative, what do you think of the assertion "sola scriptura" – scripture alone?

Answers will vary

"Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me. Amen."

– Martin Luther’s defence statement at the Diet of Worms

What do you think Luther means when he says he is bound by the Scriptures and his conscience is captive to the Word of God?

Answers will vary

Is Luther’s sentiment something we should seek to apply to ourselves and our own walks with the Lord? How would we do so?

Answers will vary – read scripture often, apply it to yourself stringently

What are some of the difficulties we can face if we seek to hold ourselves “captive” or “bound” to the Scriptures?

Conflicting opinions between the Scripture and the world/friends & family/pastors/yourself

Is there anything we can do, either alone or with others, in order to combat these difficulties?

Pray for the strength to follow God’s commands and for God to help us to see things his way.

Hold each other accountable in a friendly and constructive manner