

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

2 Timothy 3:14-17

In recognition of this year as the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, throughout 2017 the elders will be preaching periodic sermons on the “Five Solas”. This coming Sunday, Brett Harris will preach on *Sola Scriptura – Scripture Alone*.

HISTORICAL NOTE: The “Five Solas” are Latin slogans that describe the essential Protestant theological convictions.

*Sola Scriptura*—Scripture alone (Nothing else is supremely authoritative)

*Sola Fide*—Faith alone (Justification is by faith, not works)

*Sola Gratia*—Grace alone (God’s grace, not our merit, is what saves)

*Solus Christus*—Christ alone (There is no other agent of salvation)

*Soli Deo Gloria*—To the glory of God alone (No one and nothing else is supreme)

*Sola Scriptura* was a protest against the Roman Catholic doctrine that Church Tradition was of equal status to the Scriptures. Protestants assert that the Scriptures (the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments) are the ultimate authority for faith and practice. The Bible is the measure of all other claims to truth. All truth is not in the Bible, but anything that contradicts the Bible is false.

Also, the conviction of *Sola Scriptura* fueled the translation and teaching of the Bible in the common languages of the day rather than in Latin.

❖ Day 1

Read 2 Timothy 3:1-17 in your own Bible, and then reread verses 14-17 below.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The verbs are underlined. The main clauses remain to the left, and the supporting clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops or explains previous clauses. As the class progresses, you will have the opportunity to learn how to do this yourself.

- <sup>14</sup>But as for you, continue  
in what you have learned  
and have firmly believed,  
knowing from whom you learned it  
<sup>15</sup>and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings,  
which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.  
<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is breathed out by God  
and profitable  
for teaching,  
for reproof,  
for correction,  
and for training in righteousness,  
<sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be complete,  
equipped for every good work.

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1. Verse 14 begins with 'But', indicating a comparison. Who is being compared to whom?
2. Since Paul's command to Timothy is to "continue in what [he has] learned and [has] firmly believed," what does that imply is the error of the impostors mentioned in verse 13?
3. Based on verses 1 & 12, why is Paul writing these words to encourage Timothy? What is the main temptation against continuing in the faith?
4. In verses 14-15, where does Paul tell Timothy to look for the encouragement to continue in the faith?
5. From whom did Timothy learn? (see 1:5)
6. What did they teach Timothy about? (see verse 15)
7. In verse 15, what are the Scriptures able to do?
8. According to verse 16, from where do the Scriptures come?

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❖ Day 2

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17 again.

In the earliest days of the first-century church, references to the Scriptures often referred specifically to the Old Testament writings, but we know that the writings of the Apostles and other church leaders were also quickly recognized as being divinely inspired and authoritative. Read 2 Peter 3:15-16 and note how Peter identifies Paul's letters as Scripture. See also 1 Timothy 5:18 where Paul quotes both from Deuteronomy and from Luke's record of Jesus' words and calls both Scripture.

9. In verse 16, what four things does Paul say the Scriptures are profitable to accomplish?

10. Which of these are positive?

a. Which are negative?

b. Why do we need both categories?

11. According to verse 17, what is the end goal of the teaching, reproof, correction, and training that we receive from the Scriptures?

12. According to verse 17, what other sources of information are absolutely necessary for instructing a person in the ways of God? How does this verse inform your answer?

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13. Why can it be tempting to depend on things other than the Scriptures to teach us and sustain us?

14. In what ways can other people (or resources) be helpful in encouraging us to continue in the faith?

15. Why aren't other people the primary means of our sustenance?

16. How should we measure and evaluate any guidance we receive from other sources?

❖ Day 3

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17 again.

17. What good work was Timothy to be ready to do? (see 4:2)

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18. How do you see 4:2 putting into action Paul's description of the Scriptures in 3:14-17?

19. Look at Paul's example list of ungodliness in verses 2-5. Pick out two and describe how the Scriptures could teach, reprove, correct, and train those individuals.

20. Read verse 16 again. How should this impact our attitude toward the portions of the Bible that aren't our favorites?

21. Summarize the passage in one or two sentences.

In preparation for Sunday, pray that we as a congregation would rightly know, trust, and use the Scriptures as the basis for all that we do in life and ministry. Pray that that we would resolutely continue on firm in our faith in the midst of opposition.