

"Sola Scriptura"

2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 19:7-9

Overview



There is nothing worse than a boring textbook that you HAVE to read! Who among us has not slogged through some writing that we would never have thought to read on our own (but needed to get through for some project)?

As boring as they may be at times, textbooks (and reference books) of all kinds are a necessary part of our education. They contain vital information that allows us to better understand a concept or master a skill.

What about a textbook for life? What is the authoritative source for our morality? Where do we go for guidance in living? As Christians, we believe the ultimate written authority for belief and conduct is the Bible. Here's why....

Getting Started *A Good Read*



1. What (aside from God's Word) is one of your favorite books? OR what genre of writing (science fiction, mystery, historical, technical, etc.) do you most like to read?
 2. Is reading one of your preferred pastimes? What are some other others (i.e. if you had a day off to pursue any hobby or interest, what would you do)?
 3. What words (up to 5) would you use to describe yourself?
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The Text



¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God ^P may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect,
refreshing the soul.
The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.
⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right,
giving joy to the heart.
The commands of the LORD are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.
⁹ The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever.
The decrees of the LORD are firm,
and all of them are righteous.

Psalm 19:7-9 (NIV)

The Video (optional) *“Sola Scripture” – 2 Tim. 3:16, Psalm 19:7-9* - by Kyle Corbin, Oct. 18/20
(view at www.immanuelonline.ca)



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Understanding



1. Review 2 Timothy 3:1-9. In these verses Paul describes people who are never able to “come to a knowledge of the truth”. What is it that prevents them from attaining this understanding? What future is predicted for them?
2. What is it about Scripture that makes it different from other writings (see Matthew 5:17-18, 2 Tim. 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21)? Does this mean that other writings are unnecessary or should be ignored?
3. How is Scripture useful (2 Tim. 3:16)? Give an example of how Scripture fulfills each of the functions mentioned in this verse.
4. What is the purpose of Scripture according to 2 Tim. 3:17? Who is the “servant of God” and how exactly does Scripture equip that person for “every good work”?
5. What is the coming threat that underscores why it is so important that we know the Word of God? (see 2 Tim. 4:3-4)?
6. What are the characteristics of God’s Word described in Psalm 19:7-9? For each effect of the Word that is mentioned in these verses, give an example or explain how the Word has that effect (e.g. how does the perfection of God’s law refresh the soul?).

Applying



1. What authorities do people in our culture seek guidance from?
2. Do you ever see the church relying on the wrong voices of authority? Do we ever just trust our own logic or experience rather than the Word of God? If so, give examples.

3. Why do you think other sources of authority (besides Scripture) are often more attractive to people?
4. There will always be other voices apart from Scripture competing for our attention and devotion. How do you know that Scripture is truly from God and to be regarded as truth (consider 1 Cor. 2:12-15, Eph. 1:16-20)?
5. What strategies (if any) do you follow to ensure that you are hungry for God's Word and that you regularly interact with Scripture?
6. Are there any questions or concerns you have that make it hard for you to accept Scripture as fully reliable and trustworthy? Explain.
7. What do you think we should do when we are faced with an issue that Scripture does not explicitly address (e.g. cyber-bullying)?
8. Has this passage convicted, challenged or comforted you? What work do you sense you need to do to strengthen your reliance on the authority of God's Word?

Memory Verse(s)



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2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

Extra Resources



- ❖ “*Sola Scripture*” – 2 Tim. 3:16, Psalm 19:7-9” - by Kyle Corbin, Oct. 18/20 (view at www.immanuelonline.ca). Pastor Kyle reviews the importance and implications of having Scripture as our sole authority in issues of faith.
- ❖ “*The Sovereign God*” – by James Montgomery Boice (InterVarsity Press, 1978). In Part II of this work, Boice leads the reader through the essential principles of interpretation and reliability of Scripture. A good introduction.
- ❖ “*Sola Scriptura: Seven Things it Is and Isn't*” – by Andrew Moody (article at www.au.thegospelcoalition.org). Moody walks the reader through some misconceptions often associated with “sola Scriptura”.
- ❖ “*Inductive Bible Study*” – by Greg Ogden (found in “Discipleship Essentials”, IVP Connect, 1998, pg. 28-30). In this essay Ogden provides a great method for studying and applying God's Word to our lives.