

**SCRIPTURE ALONE!**  
(Selected Scriptures)

When the Protestant Reformation leader Martin Luther was asked to renounce his opposition to the unbiblical doctrines and practices of the Roman Catholic Church through his writings, he uncompromisingly replied, *“Unless I am convinced by Scripture or clear reason – for I do not trust the pope or church councils, since everyone knows that they can make mistakes and contradict themselves – I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted. My conscience is held captive by the Word of God.”* With such unwavering conviction to stand by God’s Word, this valiant declaration of Luther paved the way for the Reformation slogan “Sola Scriptura” or “Scripture Alone.” Is this historical doctrine upheld and taught by our Lord Jesus Himself? As believers of Christ, Jesus’ view of the Scripture should be our own. Let’s then consider these two affirmations of our Lord Jesus regarding the principle of “Scripture Alone.”

**1. Our Lord Jesus affirms the \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s Word.**

As Christians, we believe that the supreme and final source of authority in all matters of faith and practice is the written Word of God: the 39 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament. Hence, whatever the Bible teaches as the truth, we should believe as true; wherever the Bible issues commands and prohibitions, we are under moral obligation to obey them, because they come from God Himself. Our Lord Jesus Himself upholds the supreme authority of God’s Word. He has no regard for any kind of human tradition, teaching or practice that opposes or contradicts the Word of God. Our Lord pronounces His judgment upon those people who despise the absolute authority of God’s Word. This is why He constantly rebukes the Pharisees and scribes for imposing rules, doctrines and obligations that are not found in the Scripture (Mark 7:5-9). Our Lord Jesus believes that only the Sacred Scriptures have the absolute right and authority to bind one’s conscience, to impose moral obligation, and to serve as the supreme judge of all our beliefs, doctrines and practices (John 5:37-40; 14:6; Romans 10:9-13).

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**2. Our Lord Jesus affirms the \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s Word.**

The sufficiency of the Scripture means that all the truth necessary for our salvation and spiritual life is recorded and taught in God’s written Word. The Bible is the only standard of spiritual truth which sufficiently and inerrantly reveals all that we must believe in order to be saved and all that we must do in order to glorify God. Our Lord Jesus Himself firmly upholds and clearly teaches that God’s Word is sufficient for the believer’s salvation and sanctification (Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17; Psalm 119:11). God’s Word is also sufficient to empower us to overcome the assaults of Satan (Matthew 4:4,7,10). Even in the face of suffering and death, our Lord Jesus has shown us that we could rely on the trustworthiness and sufficiency of God’s Word (Luke 24:46; Psalm 31:5). Finally, the Word of God has the last word concerning the soon return of Christ and the glory of our eternal life (Rev. 22:7,12-13). In light of the Scripture’s supreme authority and absolute sufficiency, we should therefore cherish, value, honor, obey and love the Word of God and the God of the Word!

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