**Sola Scriptura**

**Matthew Cserhati, Solomon’s Portico series**

Man utilizes many things to discern what truth is: science, philosophy, *tradition*, etc. However, there is only one authority, which has the highest level of authority **(Sola Scriptura)**. The bottom line is that if anything contradicts Scripture, it has to be rejected.

God’s Word is independent of man’s opinion which interprets it in a given way (tradition). Tradition always takes a lower position than the Bible (God is not brought down to man’s level, and man does not exalt himself to God’s level).

This is different from *Solo Scriptura*, that we use only the Bible as a tool.

The principle of *Tota Scriptura* is also important, saying that all of God’s Word in its entirety from verse to verse is the sole highest authority, compared to *liberalism*, which says that God’s Word is somewhere in the Bible, we just have to find it.

Where in the Bible can you find Sola Scriptura?

* Jesus and the disciples always proved things from the Scriptures (“have you not read”): Lk. 24:27, Acts 18:28
* 1Cor. 4:6 – stick to what is written
* Acts 17:10-12: the Bereans accepted Paul’s (apostolic) authority but searched the Scriptures to test his words
* 2Tim. 3:16-17: All scripture is profitable, sufficient, and therefore unnecessary to be augmented
* Luke 16:27-31: parable of the rich man: the Bible is to be headed above all else
* Luke 1:3-4, John 20:30-31: Christ’s actions and words were recorded so that we may believe

Roman Catholic tradition

* The Romanist position: The written word and tradition have the same authority
* Tradition itself has not been exactly defined, therefore has no authority
* Many typical Catholic traditions were developed (e.g. transubstantiation, papal infallibility) only after 1000 A.D. (!) as opposed to the Biblical faith of the early church
* Rome’s interpretation of Matthew 16:18 is a circular argument: they claim to be the sole authority because of Matthew 16:18, but how do we know they interpret this verse correctly?
* The Greek for rock, πέτρα is feminine, but Peter’s name, Πέτρος is masculine
* Augustine: 'Thou art Peter' and not 'Thou art the rock' was said to him. But 'the rock was Christ,' in confessing whom, as also the whole Church confesses
* Papal infallibility: an example of the heresy of Montanism (speaking with the voice of the Holy Spirit), opposed by many theologians, Old Catholic church forms because of it
* Papal antichrist: 1Thess. 2:3-4: a man showing himself to be God; the Holy Spirit represents Christ on earth (John 14:16-26), not the pope