

# S O L A S

**2 Timothy 3:16**, *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness*

During the Dark Ages (years 476 to 1453), the Church literally banned the Bible to be read by ordinary people, which resulted into the Church's creation of many doctrines that are not Biblical. All across Europe, there have been pockets historical proofs of people being persecuted by the Church for reading the Bible. One example was John Wycliffe, an English priest in the 1380s who decided to translate the Bible into English so ordinary folks could read it, because of that, Wycliffe was declared an enemy of the church. Many others who have read the Bible secretly and discovered its pure teachings questioned the Church, but they were put to death.

It wasn't until 1517, when a German monk named Martin Luther, after reading the Bible, rediscovered some of the questionable teachings of the Church. Luther started a debate by posting his rediscoveries and nailing them on the door of his church. That move was pivotal to the birth of the evangelical Reformation movement of which Mosaic Church is a part.

The foundational teachings of the Reformation are called the Five Solas (Sola means alone). They are as follows: 'Sola Scriptura' (Scripture Alone); 'Sola Gratia' (Grace Alone); 'Sola Fide' (Faith Alone); 'Solus Christus' (Christ Alone); and 'Soli Deo Gloria' (To God Alone Be Glory). The Five Solas are still extremely relevant for our times; the Bible, God's Word, that has been given to us. They bring us to the means of our salvation, "...by grace through faith" centered on Jesus Christ alone, not our works. Finally, we are reminded that whatever we do, we do it to the glory of God alone.

Last Sunday, Pastor Ta spoke on SOLA SCRIPTURA.

**THE WORD OF GOD IS ALWAYS CHALLENGED.** From the earliest times, reliance on the Word of God has been challenged. God's arch enemy, Satan, lied to our first parents regarding eating of the tree, telling them, "You shall not surely die," (Genesis 3:4) when God had told them the opposite. There have been constant attempts over the centuries to erode our foundational belief in the Bible. Every generation of Christians will face this challenge afresh in some form or other. Although it constantly comes in new forms, its aim remains the same! So the Church and Christians need to be alert to this today. That is why at Mosaic, as believers we should always be open to the Word of God for our growth and blessing.

**THE WORD OF GOD IS OUR FOUNDATION.** Examining where the Bible came from, what it contains, and why it was given, helps us understand why Scripture Alone is so foundational. The contents of the Bible came from our Triune God. Paul tells the young minister Timothy, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God" (2 Timothy 3:16). "Inspiration of God" is a single Greek word, "theopneustos", meaning 'God-breathed'. Therefore, the Scriptures are 'inspired by God'. 2 Peter 1:21 elaborates, "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." The Reformers' insistence on Sola Scriptura brought the church firmly back to a position of adherence to the Scriptures as the final authority. It is good to recall what has taken place in the past. It is even more important to grasp the relevance and benefits that a reliance on Sola Scriptura will bring to our lives, our community, and our government.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEXT STEPS:

- New York Mission Trip (November 8-16)
- Men's Conference (November 3-4)
- Dream Team Convergence (October 29)

## PRAY TOGETHER FOR

- A strong love for God's Word.
- More people to come to Jesus because of your obedience to the Holy Spirit.

## GOAL FOR THIS STUDY:

The Word of God is foundational in everything we do.

The Reformation was a return to the Bible. This return is as relevant and needful now as it was then.

## **Connection and Action**

*Questions to promote conversation and connection*

### **Question:**

What is best life-hack you have discovered lately?

## **Bible and Belief**

*Questions to help believers develop a biblical point of view.*

### **Questions:**

Read I Thessalonians 2:13. How did the Thessalonians respond to the word that Paul preached?

Why did the word work in them?

Read Mark 16:20. How did God confirm his word?

Read Hebrews 2:3- 4. How else did God confirm his word?

Read Luke 24:25-27, 44, John 1:45, John 2:22. What did God's word predict?

Read I John 2:21. Is any deception found in God's truth?

Read Titus 1:2 and Hebrews 6:18. Is it possible for God to lie?

Read I Corinthians 1:18. What is the world's response to God's word?

Read Proverbs 30:5, 6. What warning do we have concerning God's word?

## **Growing in Leadership**

*Questions to help people grow as leaders.*

### **Question:**

How can you develop greater love for God's Word

### **Question:**

How can you share God's Word more effectively with people who need Jesus?

### **Question:**

Do you have a regular time with the Word of God and prayer?

### **Suggestion:**

Find the best place and time in your day when you can spend reading the Word and receive its blessings.