












Sola Scriptura - Nelson Hsieh

Friday, March 16, 2007
7:42 PM






Key Verse
 **2 Peter 1: 12-21**

Theme: Authority of Scripture

Important Points:

-  "For to go against conscience is neither right nor safe." - Martin Luther
-  The church does not stand on sinking sand... but on the solid rock of Scripture.
-  The Bible never teaches right conduct until you first have right thinking; the Bible is a book of truths before it is a book of commands.
-  You don't pray because you don't believe prayer will work. You're not reading the Bible because you don't really believe it is the Word of God.
-  If you don't think before you act; if you merely just obey then you are being a legalist. Jesus hates legalists. Woe to you Christians sitting in this room who do these things without thinking.
-  The Bible is not a book about God; it is a book from God. There's a big difference between speaking about God and speaking from God.
-  To reject the divine origin of Scripture is rejecting the authority of God.
-  You cannot be a Christian and be dispassionate for Truth. The reason why the church is dead in today's time is because Christians are not passionate for things of God.
-  Proclaim sola scriptura to this generation. We can do no other. God help us.


Cross References:

-  (Rom 12:2) And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
-  (Eph 4:24) and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.
-  (1Co 2:12) Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,
(1Co 2:13) which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.
-  (2Ti 3:16) All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;
-  (Isa 40:6) A voice says, "Call out." Then he answered, "What shall I call out?" All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field.
(Isa 40:7) The grass withers, the flower fades, When the breath of the LORD blows upon it; Surely the people are grass.
(Isa 40:8) The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.


Sermon Notes:

The church does not stand on sinking sand but on the solid rock of Scripture.
How can we know that the Bible is the Word of God?

I. Reminders (v. 12-15)

-  (2Pe 1:12) Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you.
(2Pe 1:13) I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder,
(2Pe 1:14) knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.
(2Pe 1:15) And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind.

II. Argument #1: Witnesses (v. 16-18)


 (2Pe 1:16) For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

(2Pe 1:17) For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased"--

(2Pe 1:18) and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.


- Apostolic verification
- Eye witness testimonies

III. Argument #2: Prophecies of Scripture (v. 19)

 (2Pe 1:19) So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.


- "pay attention"
- Divine Origin
- Bible is divinely inspired, it has come from God and not from men


IV. Think before you act (v. 20)

 (2Pe 1:20) But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,

"But know this first of all"


- We must know something before we can behave, it starts in our mind. We must think before we act.
- Good people don't go to heaven, they go to hell. God saves sinners.
- The Bible never teaches right conduct until you first have right thinking. The Bible is a book of truths before it is a book of commands.

 (Rom 12:2) And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

 (Eph 4:24) and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

- The Bible must be authoritative over how you think before it is over how you live.
- Attitudes are more important than actions.
- You don't pray because you don't believe prayer will work. You're not reading the Bible because you don't really believe it is the Word of God.
- Think before you act. Think before you read the Word, think before you pray. Why do you do these things?
- If you don't think before you act; if you merely just obey then you are being a legalist. Jesus hates legalists. Woe to you Christians sitting in this room who do these things without thinking.
- We have to be changed in our thinking first. Think rightly and you'll act rightly. Think biblically and you'll act biblically.

V. Two truths (v.21)

 (2Pe 1:21) for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

- Know that the origin of Scripture is not human
- Know that the origin of Scripture is divine
 - V. 20 "that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation
 - Scripture didn't come from the mind of men. None of it originated from man.
 - V. 21 "for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will,"
 - "for" -> because


- Men did not intend on their own to create or write Scripture.
 - ◆ They did not just decide one day to get up and go write scripture
- V. 21 " but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."
 - Origin of Scripture is Divine
 - "from" points to the source, the origin.
 - The Bible is not a book about God; it is a book from God. There's a big difference between speaking about God and speaking from God.
 - ◆ Piper, MacArthur write about God.
 - ◆ The Bible is supreme over all other books.
 - How is it that the message was not from men's minds?
 - ◆ The prophets were moved, carried along by the Holy Spirit.
 - This verse is the clearest articulation of how Scripture is inspired by God.
 - ◆ The Holy Spirit guided and guarded as He moved and carried along men who spoke from God.
 - ◇ Ex. Mother and toddler. Mother guides toddler in the right direction. The child is still walking on his own, but the mother is guiding him.
 - ◇ Holy Spirit guide the truth and guard from error.
 - What we have is the perfect and supreme Word of God.
 - ◆ God had carefully guided and protected His word.
 - ◆ If scripture is supreme, then everything else is inferior

The authority of Scripture is under attack in today's society. We cannot just sit back idly while the Word is being attacked. We must fight for Truth.

What is the big deal about the Bible and it's authority?

Understand that you are the pillar and support of truth called to guard and protect the treasure that you have been entrusted to.

You cannot be a Christian and be dispassionate for Truth. The reason why the church is dead in today's time is because Christians are not passionate for things of God.

 (Isa 40:6) A voice says, "Call out." Then he answered, "What shall I call out?" All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field.
 (Isa 40:7) The grass withers, the flower fades, When the breath of the LORD blows upon it; Surely the people are grass.
 (Isa 40:8) The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.

- Brothers, don't waste your life by being passionate about "grass" that withers. Pray for a holy ambition for Truth.
- And sisters, you are also called to fight. You do not get to stay home.

Proclaim sola scriptura to this generation. We can do no other. God help us.

Application Questions:

- ? Do you accept the Bible as the Word of God? Is it supreme over your thinking, over your beliefs? Or do you regard it as the word of men?
- ? Is the whole of your thinking governed by scripture? Or do you sit there picking?
- ? Why do you pray? Why do you read the Word? Do you think before you act?