

# Kootenai Communicator

The monthly newsletter of Kootenai Community Church, Kootenai, Idaho

## Important Dates <<<

4 Bridal Shower, see p. 4  
12 Due date for Shoeboxes  
Book Sale - all month

*Expounding the Scriptures, Exhorting the Saints,  
Exalting the Savior*

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

### **The Reformation And the Sufficiency of Scripture**

**By Jim Osman, Pastor/Teacher**

In last month's newsletter article, we laid something of a foundation for this series on the theology of the Reformation. We covered some of the background information, gave a very little bit of the history, and briefly introduced the issues at the heart of the divide between Protestants and Catholics.

This series on the Reformation is focusing on the central issue of the Protestant-Catholic debate: the gospel. This is the central question: "**How is a man made right before God?**" We are sinners. God is just. Justice demands that sin be punished. On what basis and how does God acquit the sinner and declare us "Not guilty"?

How am I justified? Can I know I am justified? Can I be unjustified? How is a man made right before God?

#### Different Answers

Protestants and Catholics will give different answers to those most basic questions.

Protestants would affirm, with Scripture, that "The just shall live by faith." We affirm that we are forgiven and declared righteous not because of anything we have done, but based on what Christ has done on our behalf.

Catholics would say that we are forgiven because we cooperate with the grace of God which He infuses into our soul. We are to nurture that grace, improve that grace, do good works, submit to sacraments, go to confession, pray to saints, do homage to Mary, get indulgences, have the Pope remit our sins, receive absolution from a priest, and then, finally, after we die, we suffer in Purgatory to take care of whatever stain of sin or remaining guilt is left after all that Christ did and all that we do – then we get to go to Heaven.

Even to the most superficial observer, these are completely different answers. But why the different answers? Ultimately it comes down to the fact that we have very different sources of authority. Catholics will give an answer that reflects the teaching of whatever they view to be the authoritative source on that subject.

#### Diet of Worms

It was in 1517 that Luther posted his 95 Theses. As I stated in the previous article, his intention was not to divide the church. Rather, Luther wanted to debate these statements. He had no intention of breaking away from the Roman Catholic Church. But the more Luther grew in his understanding of Scripture, the more it became obvious to him that he could not continue in Catholicism and still be faithful to Scripture.

At first, the Pope dismissed the writings and teachings of Luther as the rambling musings of a drunken German. But as Luther's teachings spread and his popularity grew, it became apparent that the Pope could ignore Luther no longer.

Luther had debated church leaders in Heidelberg, Augsburg, and Leipzig before receiving a papal bull (official document signed by the pope) in 1520 declaring him to be an enemy of the Church. The bull called upon Luther and his followers to repent and formerly recant his teachings within 60 days. In response, Luther, with all the subtlety of a train wreck, publicly burned the papal bull. There was no going back.

Pope Leo X excommunicated Luther on January 3, 1521. He was then summoned by the Emperor to appear in the city of Worms (pronounced "varms") before an Imperial Diet (a council or legislative body). Their hope was that, when confronted, Luther would recant.

Luther made his way to Worms starting on April 2. Despite his excommunication, Luther was welcomed by adoring crowds—even in the city of Worms. He arrived there on April 16 and appeared before the council the following day.

Luther was anticipating an opportunity to debate his writings or at least to discuss or present his concerns. Instead, he was confronted with two very short questions. With copies of many of his writings laid out before him on a table, he was asked, "Are these your writings?"

In a barely audible voice, Luther responded, "The books are all mine and I have written more."

"Do you defend them all, or do you care to reject a part?"

Luther then realized they did not intend to debate the writings with him. They were pushing for a simple affirma-

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tion or recantation. Luther was unsure of how to respond. Much of what he had written was in keeping with official Catholic doctrine. Certainly, there were parts of those documents with which Rome would agree.

Trembling, Luther asked for some time to think it over and he was given until the next day. On the next day, Luther appeared again.

They asked him again, "Do you recant?"

Luther attempted to discuss his views, to offer a defense, but he was quickly shut down. The official pressed him, "I ask you, Martin—answer candidly and without horns—do you or do you not repudiate your books and the errors which they contain?"

Luther responded with this now-famous statement, "Since then your serene majesty and your lordships seek a simple answer, I will give it in this manner, not embellished: unless I am convinced by the **testimony of the Scriptures** or by clear reason, for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradict themselves, I am bound to the **Scriptures** I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the **Word of God**. I cannot and I will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. I cannot do otherwise, here I stand. May God help me, Amen."<sup>1</sup>

Did you notice Luther's emphasis in his statement? "Unless I am convinced by the testimony of Scripture." That was his standard. "My conscience is captive to the Word of God." "I am bound to the Scriptures." Luther's appeal was to Scripture and Scripture alone.

### **The Formative Principle**

This appeal to Scripture alone – Sola Scriptura – is known as the "*formative principle of the Reformation*." Justification by faith is known as the "*material principle of the Reformation*."

The material principle deals with "the matter at hand." What is the matter, the issue, the substance at heart of the Reformation? It is justification by faith. Is a man made right by faith alone? How are we forgiven? That is the substance, the matter of the whole issue: the material principle.

The *formative principle* is the principle or the teaching that *forms* the whole debate. The teaching of the Reformation is that a man is justified by faith and faith alone. What forms that belief? The principle that Scripture and Scripture alone is our source of authority for doctrine and practice. This is Sola Scriptura – Scripture alone.

### **The Necessity**

It is not difficult to see why this must be asserted at the beginning. This is the necessary principle that must drive the rest of the debate. How do you discuss this issue if you cannot even agree on what is the authority?

What is the source of authority that determines truth? What is to form our doctrine, answer our questions, determine our life and practices? To what do Christians turn as the reliable source of divine truth?

For the Reformers, the answer to that question was "Scripture **and** Scripture alone."

For the Catholics, the answer to that question was "Scripture, **but not** Scripture alone." Scripture is **a** source of authoritative truth, but not **the** source of authoritative truth.

Let's go to the Word and see what Scripture says regarding this issue.

### **2 Peter 1**

*2 Peter 1:3–4: "...seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corrup-*

*tion that is in the world by lust."*

*2 Peter 1:19–21: "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. But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."*

There is a certain irony in the fact that we are turning to a book written by Peter for what we are going to see. Rome regards him as their first Pope, and yet, we will see that what Peter teaches in 2 Peter is contrary to what Rome says.

These verses describe the sufficiency of what we have been given in Christ. We have been given everything—EVERYTHING—that is necessary for life and godliness. In order that we might have eternal life, and live life in this world, God has provided what we need. He has provided in Christ and through a knowledge of Him, everything we might need.

We have been provided everything not just for life, but for godliness. This refers to our sanctification, our continued growth in holiness. We grow in Christ-likeness through the means that God has appointed. He has provided everything we need for constant progression in godliness.

He has called us by His own glory and excellence and in those same divine attributes, He has given to us His "**precious and magnificent promises**" (v. 3).

Where do we find the truth about Christ? Where do we find the "true knowledge of the One Who called us?" And where do we find the "promises of God" to His people? Where would we look to find a record of the precious promises of God? Scripture. We look to the written Word. We would look to what God has spoken through the apostles and prophets, through His spokesmen.

In verses 16-18, Peter recounts quite an amazing experience that he had when Jesus was with him. It is the experience of the Transfiguration recorded in Matthew 17. Peter was an eyewitness. Jesus took Peter, James, and John up onto that mount and there before their eyes, a portion of His glory was put on display. They saw a preview of His Kingdom glory. They caught a glimpse of it as the veil of His humiliation was for a moment pulled away and they saw His majesty. They heard a voice from Heaven, the voice of the Father saying, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well pleased."

Peter says in verse 18, "We ourselves heard this utterance from Heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain."

What a magnificent experience! He was one of only three men who saw that. He saw Moses and Elijah standing there speaking with Jesus. The incarnate Son in His Kingdom glory speaking with Moses and Elijah. He heard the audible voice of Heaven, the testimony of the Father regarding the Son. It is impossible to overstate how unique, magnificent and thrilling that personal experience would be.

Peter does this to show that his preaching was not, in the words of verse 16, a "cleverly devised tale." Though that was true for Peter, it was not true for any of his readers. Nobody in Peter's intended audience had had an experience like that. So, absent an experience like that, where might Peter's readers look for a true knowledge of Christ, a revelation of His majestic glory and truth about Him?

To Scripture. Or as Peter describes it, "the Prophetic Word."

What follows here is Peter's teaching regarding the inspiration of Scripture.

I want you to notice just two things. **First, the reliability of Scripture.** It is "more sure." The word translated "more sure" is a word that means "dependable, reliable, certain, trustworthy, verified." The prophetic word is "more certain," "more de-



**Sunday  
School  
begins  
at 9:30 a.m.**

**YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE:** The Youth Sunday School class joined the adults for a Reformation study during the month of October. We will continue our study in systematic theology when we resume in November. We started back in April with an introduction to systematic theology and several lessons in bibliology to establish the inspiration and authority of the Bible. Next were lessons on the existence of God, the knowability of God, and names and images of God. We are now nearing the end of our study on the attributes of God. We have studied God's independence, immutability, eternity, omnipresence, unity, omniscience, omnipotence, truth, faithfulness, goodness, love, mercy, patience, holiness, peace, righteousness, jealousy, and wrath.

We will next look at His invisibility/spirituality, happiness, perfection, and freedom. What does it mean to say that God is spirit, God is happy, God is perfect, and God is free? Once we have completed the study of His attributes, we will pause to examine the purpose of all things, the glory of God. What is God's glory? What is implied by a biblical understanding that all things (including us) exist for the glory of God alone? How do we pursue God's glory? I am looking forward to searching out biblical answers to these questions with our unique group of young people over at Ed and Jennifer Barba's house.

~Dave Rich

## >>> Missionary Moment— Chris and Debbie Klynstra

*"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places." Ephesians 6:12*

### Praise:

1. We are praising the Lord for Ben's 10th birthday!! We love his tender heart and ability to bring joy and laughter into our lives.
2. Sarah has the opportunity to learn many crafts from a friend on base since her own mother is craft-challenged. She loves crocheting and will soon begin a quilting project!
3. I am thankful to have opportunities to help as the base hostess when folks come from the other side of the world to see what God is doing in Indonesia. It was fun to host a lunch and be able to talk with this group of people from the States.
4. I also am glad to be able to teach Bible 3 days a week and to also fill in as a substitute teacher when necessary.
5. Chris is busy at work doing inspections on the Kodiaks and taking care of any other daily maintenance needs. We are thankful for the crew God has provided at the Wamena hangar to do these inspections.
6. We live in a very isolated part of the country, so it is fun for us to find fun things to do. The kids went "sledding" last Friday on cardboard down a grassy hill and there was also a motocross race going on here that one of our maintenance guys was helping at!
7. We are proud of our kids as we watch them grow in exciting, boring, and challenging circumstances. It is fun to see them trying their hands at new things and walking them through life's journey.

### Prayer:

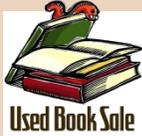
1. Ben will turn 10 this Saturday. Please pray for him in school and as we guide him through making good choices in life.
2. Pray for Sarah as we look for ways to challenge her in a place that has limited resources. Pray too as she is a part of a girl's Bible study here on base with other MKs.
3. Pray for wisdom for me as I have the privilege of being a part of the small school here. Pray for unity, grace, and wisdom.
4. Thank you for praying for Chris as he works in the hangar and is a part of the lives of those he works with each day.
5. Our trip out "sledding" was fun...but some of the things you don't see in pictures is the extreme heat that day, a parent falling down the hill and breaking his collar bone, a crowd forming just to watch us, and then that crowd demanding money from us when we were done.
6. Last week I made 2 dents in 2 cars in 2 days. I then broke my wedding ring and lost my diamond...but then God allowed us to find it! We can get it fixed in the States when we come home in 5 months. Pray to keep our eyes on the eternal.
7. Please pray as we begin to make plans for furlough. Nothing set in stone yet, but **we hope to be visiting our home church, Kootenai Community, March 2018.** We will let you know when we have more definite plans!

We are so thankful for you and for the encouragement it is to us to know we do not serve alone.

He is Faithful and True,  
Debbie

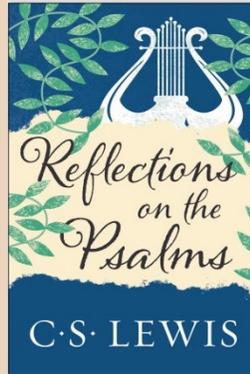


## >>>Garden of Readin'



### Used Book Sale

As the church library gets organized, we're finding duplicate copies of some books, so we're making the extras available for sale. Look for them at the Welcome Table. **All proceeds go to the Building Fund.**



### Reflections on the Psalms by C. S. Lewis

In his usual clear and winsome way, C. S. Lewis guides readers through the Psalms, discussing both their form and content. He writes about both the joys and the difficulties he personally experienced in reading the Psalms, and points out that they are poetry, intended to be sung, not doctrinal treatises, and should be read as such. Topics include judgment, cursing, praising, nature, and more. Lewis writes from an Anglican perspective.

Please contact Jenny Leo (610-2520) about donations or any library-related matter.

## Women's Ministry <<<

### Ladies' Christmas Tea

Saturday, Dec. 2

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.



- \*All ladies are invited to come for a time of fellowship, devotional, food and a fun gift exchange.
- \*Please bring a wrapped, Christmas-themed gift for exchange.
- \*It is at Lisa Slippy's home, 157 Bobtail Rd., Sandpoint
- \*No childcare provided. Nursing babies are welcome.

**SECRET PRAYER SISTERS:** We will reveal our Secret Prayer Sisters and choose new ones for the next year. If you cannot attend and would still like to participate, please fill out the Secret Prayer Sister form which will come to you in the mail and return it to Tammie Shields. Extra forms will be available.



Information is available at the Welcome Table.  
**Turn in boxes by November 12.**



### Bridal Shower

For Shelli Daniels, engaged to Matt Cowell.

Sat, November 4 at 2:00 p.m.

At Brenda Currie's home:  
309 Spokane St, Kootenai

All women encouraged to attend. For gift ideas, see their registry on Amazon. Talk to Marcia if you have questions.

## >>>Cocolalla Lake Bible Camp

Please visit the camp website at [clbcamp.org](http://clbcamp.org) for more details.

### November 3-4 FALL SCRAPBOOK RETREAT

Enjoy a two-day getaway to the wonderfully rustic Bible camp nestled on the north shore of Cocolalla Lake. Our retreat is specifically designed to connect the hearts of women with a powerful message of hope and their passion for scrapbooking memories.



### November 10-11 FAITH BUILDERS RETREAT

This retreat is designed specifically for those who have been involved in Youth Leadership up to this point. Participants will be challenged to further advance the cause of Christ in their own lives and in the world around them.



What are you waiting for? It's time to lead the change...

# Student Ministries <<<

## Important November Dates!

- 8 Youth Group @ Kimbers', 7 p.m.
- 13 Girls' Bible Study, 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Youth Group @ Osmans', 7 p.m.
- 23 Thanksgiving!
- 27 Girls' Bible Study, 7:30 p.m.  
@ Anna Bottcher's
- Dec. 16 Shopping Trip!!



### COMING UP:

### Christmas Shopping Trip!

Saturday, Dec. 16

We will go to the Spokane Valley Mall for the day. Look for details soon!



## >>>Kootenai Thunder

[kootenaithunder.com](http://kootenaithunder.com)

For the most current information, please check our website and Facebook page.



### TOURNAMENT UPDATES:

**Jr. Girls' Volleyball:** With passion, these young ladies took 2nd Place in the Mountain Christian League Tournament! Congrats, Ladies!

**JV Girls' Volleyball:** In an incredibly exciting Championship Match, the JV girls came away with a win, giving them 1st Place in the tournament.

**Varsity Girls' Volleyball:** Tournament will be Nov. 3-4 in Coeur d' Alene.

**Boys' Soccer:** Tournament will be in Post Falls, Oct. 26-28 (too late to get results in the newsletter, but ask a player to see how they did!!)

At the time of this newsletter, the varsity girls' volleyball record is 9-1. Way to go, ladies! It looks to be an exciting ending to the season capped with a thrilling tournament!

**Fundraiser Results:** The Fall Silent Auction and Dessert Social was a success again! Thank you to all who attended and supported this wonderful sports ministry. Donations of excellent items brought in a total of over \$600!!

## >>>Building Update

October has been a highly productive month at the church building. The HVAC duct work has been installed in the sanctuary. High Mark Heating and Cooling has been busy hanging some very big ducts from the roof. Ron Mauck, Thomas Leo, Isaiah Yandt, and Liam Osman poured two concrete slabs on the north end of the building; one for emergency egress and the other for setting the large HVAC unit that will heat and cool the sanctuary. Also, our t-bar ceiling installer, Charlie LaDuca, got all the grid work hung in the sanctuary. Jade Smith, Rich Black, Shepley Osman, and Jamie Slippy hung drywall in the small room behind the stage. That was the last small drywall project left. With the help of Bryce and Seth Barba, Steve Hill finished all the grouting of tile in the kitchen, janitor's closet and women's bathroom. After the fire sprinkler heads are installed in the sanctuary, it will be ready for lights and then insulation and ceiling tile.

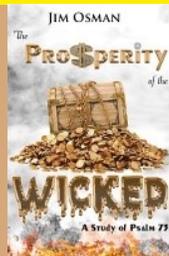
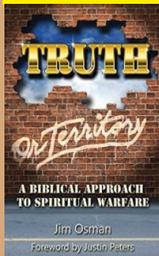


Thank you for praying for all those involved in this work. Thanks for giving to this project. May God grant us the ability to use our own facility soon! Soli Deo Gloria.

## Church News <<<

### Books Available

*Selling the Stairway to Heaven, Truth or Territory, and The Prosperity of the Wicked* are available in print. These books by Pastor Jim Osman are available both on the church website and Amazon.com. ALL THE PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF THE BOOKS GO TO THE BUILDING FUND.



### MEAL MINISTRY

Our church is a body, and we help one another as needs arise. One practical way we do this is through the Meal Ministry. Andrea Kinne organizes meals to be delivered for new mothers and those following surgery. Please call her at 265-0102.



### KCC COLLEGE STUDENT ADDRESSES Send them some encouragement!

#### Central Washington University

Annie Slippy  
901 E. Juniper Apt. 3  
Ellensburg, WA 98926

#### Grand Canyon University

Mark Slippy  
Encanto t17540  
3300 W. Camelback Rd.  
Phoenix, AZ 85017

#### Moody College Spokane

K.T. Kinne  
512 E. Baldwin Ave. Apt. A  
Spokane, WA 99207

#### Pacific University

Sunny Brown  
U.C. #3362  
Pacific University  
2043 College Way  
Forest Grove, OR 97116

#### North Idaho College

Kellie Rich  
39 Private Drive  
Sagle, ID 83860

#### Pensacola Christian College

Taylor Jensen  
PCC Box 2162  
250 Brent Lane  
Pensacola, FL 32503

#### University of Idaho

David Currie  
1411 West A. St. Apt. 10  
Moscow, ID 83843

Megan Rich  
458 Taylor Ave., Apt. 6A  
Moscow, ID 83843

Jamie Rich (CDA Campus)  
39 Private Drive  
Sagle, ID 83860

## >>>Kootenai Classifieds

**Firewood:**  
Call John Kinne, (208) 290-4359.

**Science in a Nutshell** – Science experiment kits for early- to mid-elementary grades. Four kits available: Weather Wise, Body Basics, A Peek Inside You, Energy in Motion. Enough supplies for 2 students in each kit. \$20 each. Contact Diedre at 208-610-4542.

**STUDED SNOW TIRES**  
Set of 4, Hankook I Pike 225/45 R17 94T  
Contact Nathelle Gross at 255-1566.

pendable," "more reliable" than. . . what? What is the written prophetic word "more sure" than?

It is more sure than the great, magnificent personal experience that Peter described in verses 16-18. Written truth is more certain, more reliable, and more dependable than even the greatest personal experience or personal revelation.

Would you rather have an audible voice from Heaven or read the book Amos? The answer to that question tells me what you believe about Scripture. Would you rather hear the voice of God from Heaven or have the written Word? If your answer to that is "the written Word, the Bible" then you are in a small minority of professing Christianity in this country. I would bet my life that less than 5 out of 100 Christians would say Scripture.

**Second, I want you to notice the nature of Scripture.** It does not come from men or from the will of men, but it comes from God through men. Men were moved, pushed along by the Holy Spirit to write Scripture. They spoke from God so that the product that you hold in your hand is the very Word of God. It was not their own private and independent thoughts, musings, or wisdoms that compose scripture. The Word of God is God speaking. It is not a record of times that God spoke. It is not the words of men. It is the voice, the Word, the revelation of God, breathed out by Him through human instruments. Scripture is the voice of God.

### The Contrast with Rome

Rome does not deny that Scripture is **necessary** to know God. They deny that it is **sufficient in itself**. Just as they do not deny the necessity of grace for salvation, they deny the **sufficiency** of grace for salvation. Rome doesn't deny that faith is **necessary**, they deny that it is sufficient. Rome doesn't deny that the work of Christ is **necessary**, they deny it is **sufficient**. It is the word "alone" that is the rub. That is why the battle cry of the Reformation came down to those five "Solas."

Let's begin with a definition of "Sola Scriptura."

When we speak of "Sola Scriptura" we mean that Scripture alone is our authority. Scripture alone is the inspired, infallible, inerrant rule that must govern our faith and our practice. It alone is the authority that must dictate what we believe and how we live.

We do not mean that only that which is found in Scripture is true. Things can be true and not revealed in Scripture. The equation for discovering the area of a triangle is true, but it is not revealed in Scripture. However, nothing is true that contradicts Scripture.

We do not mean that Scripture tells us everything we need to know about everything. Scripture does not tell us how many teaspoons are in a cup, how much a gallon of water weighs, or how to change the oil in your car.

Scripture was not given for these things. It was given to inform us of the way of salvation and to sanctify and secure the Sheep of Christ forever. It was given to reveal God and the way of walking in obedience to Him. It was given to define the parameters of truth regarding the life of the people of God. Scripture and Scripture alone is sufficient for that.

### The Teaching of Rome

The Roman Catholic Church believes and teaches that though Scripture is necessary, it is not sufficient for this task. Two other things are necessary to inform us regarding doctrine and practice: tradition and the infallible teaching of the church.

"Tradition" refers to oral traditions handed down from the Apostles. These "traditions" are not recorded in Scripture, but have been preserved for us in the life of the church and through the teaching of the Popes and councils through the last 2,000 years. That is Rome's position.

I mentioned the Council of Trent (1544-1563) last month. Trent was the counsel of Roman Catholic leadership that published statements in response to the Protestant Reformers' at-

tacks upon the unbiblical doctrines and unbiblical practices of the Roman Catholic Church.

By 1544 it was obvious that the reformers were standing on Scripture and Scripture alone. Here is Rome's response from the Council of Trent. It says the gospel "also clearly perceives that these truths and rules are contained in the written books and in the unwritten traditions, which, received by the apostles themselves, the Holy Ghost dictating, have come down to us, transmitted as it were from hand to hand. Following, then, the examples of the Orthodox Fathers, *it receives and venerates with a feeling of piety and reverence* all the books both of the Old and New Testaments, since one God is author of both; also *the traditions*, whether they relate to faith or to morals, as having been dictated either orally by Christ or by the Holy Ghost, and preserved in the Catholic Church in unbroken succession" (Fourth Session, April 8, 1546).

Notice their veneration for tradition. According to the Roman Catholic Church, Tradition is the "unwritten Word of God" transmitted from the mouth of Christ or the mouth of the apostles, to the "Church." It was not written down, but it is equally the word of God alongside all 66 books of your Bible. That is the Roman Catholic position.

Here is a statement from Vatican II from January, 1959, under Pope John XXIII: "It is clear, therefore, that sacred tradition, sacred Scripture, and the teaching authority of the Church, in accord with God's most wise design, are so linked and joined together that one cannot stand without the others, and that all together and each in its own way under the action of the one Holy Spirit contribute effectively to the salvation of souls." Notice the three equal sources of authority.

Catholic author John O'Brien, a Roman Catholic priest, wrote: "Great as is our reverence for the Bible, reason and experience compel us to say that *it alone is not a competent nor a safe guide as to what we are to believe*." Again, the Protestant affirmation of "alone" is the real rub. Why? Because if you rely upon the Bible alone as your source of authority, you will never come up with Roman Catholic doctrine.

Henry Graham, Catholic priest and author, wrote this: "Venerable and inspired as Catholics regard the Bible, great as is their devotion to it for spiritual reading and support of doctrine, we yet do not pretend to lean upon it alone, as the Rule of faith and morals. Along with it we take that great Word that was never written, Tradition, and hold by both the one and the other interpreted by the living voice of the Catholic Church speaking through her Supreme Head, the infallible Vicar of Christ."

On page 82 of *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, it says the Roman Catholic Church "does not derive her certainty about all revealed truth from the holy Scriptures alone. Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honored with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence."

Here is the bottom line: without revering tradition, without using the teaching of the Church as an authority, Rome would not be Rome. Rome cannot find its doctrines in Scripture. The teachings that Mary was born of a virgin, the Pope is the Vicar of Christ, Mass is the sacrifice of the Christ all over again, of Penance, indulgences, Purgatory, and a host of other doctrines cannot be found in Scripture at all.

Protestantism says, "Scripture alone." To the Word! To the sources!

Rome says, "Scripture **plus** Tradition **plus** the Teaching of the Church."

Do you believe the Bible is sufficient?

### Today

Many Protestants believe and practice things that demonstrate they do not really believe in the sufficiency of Scripture. There are modern day attacks on the sufficiency of Scripture that are countenanced among Protestants.

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## Kootenai Community Church

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www.kootenaichurch.org

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The teaching that you and I can receive private, personal revelations from God for direction, comfort, and guidance apart from Scripture is an attack upon the sufficiency of the Bible. You have in Scripture everything you need for life and godliness. You don't need a voice from Heaven, you need the Scriptures. God is not whispering in your ear and the doctrine that says He will, or He needs to, or that you need to tune in to it, is an unbiblical fiction.

Sarah Young, author of *Jesus Calling*, has made a fortune undermining the doctrine of the sufficiency of Scripture. In her wildly popular book, she says that though she had the Bible, she "longed for something more." So, she sat down and started receiving these personal messages from Jesus. For Sarah Young, the Bible is not enough. Apparently, it is not enough for millions of others either.

The Charismatic movement and the New Apostolic Reformation movement both undermine this doctrine with their belief in modern-day prophets and new revelations.

The Heaven Tourism industry thrives on the desire among "Christians" for something more than Scripture. Many people can tell you what Colton Burpo says about Heaven but they don't have a clue what Scripture says about Heaven.

John Owen, the great Puritan writer said, "If your private revelations disagree with Scripture, they are wrong. If they agree with Scripture, they are unnecessary."

The modern psychology movement, which large segments of the church have bought into, is an attack upon the sufficiency of Scripture. The idea that some pagan counselor with a degree in counseling from a community college, but who is ignorant of the truth of Scripture, can help you with your problems is nonsense. Pastors in our land are constantly passing people off to these pagans, thinking they have some answer that Scripture does not supply.

When you hear someone say, "Well, I know the Bible says this, but I have always been taught. . .," or, "Yeah, I see what the text says, but my church teaches. . .," or, "Yeah, the Bible says that, but I have always believed. . ." Tradition! That is an attack on the sufficiency of Scripture. It is an elevation of tradition over the Word of God.

I can scarcely think of a theological or practical error that plagues the church today that cannot be traced back to a lack of confidence in the sufficiency of Scripture.

### Conclusion

I would need three more columns to flesh out all the implications of this doctrine of the Sufficiency of Scripture, but I cannot close without offering a brief list of them. If the Bible is sufficient, it must be read and it must be obeyed. If the Bible is sufficient, it alone drives the structure of the church, the doctrine of the church, the practice of the church. It is the center of the worship service and informs all that happens. It must be preached expositively. The sad state of preaching in modern evangelicalism is a direct result of a lack of belief in the sufficiency of Scripture.

Here is a direct implication for you: all that you need, you have been given. All that you need to know God savingly through Jesus Christ has been given to you in Scripture. All that you need to know about God, to believe in Him, to grow in grace, is yours. All you need to fight sin, to live in holiness, and to walk with Christ in obedience, is found in the Bible. Go to the book!

Without Wax,



<sup>1</sup> Pickowicz, Nate. *Why We're Protestant: An Introduction to the Five Solas of the Reformation* (Kindle Locations 401-406). Publisher unknown. Kindle edition.