

Encountering the Word of God – Scripture Alone - Luke 24:1-35

Bumper sticker – “God said it! I believe it! That settles it!”

Do you like this bumper sticker? Is there anything about it that troubles you?

How do you see this book (The Bible)?

- Is it a book that contains a word from God or is it the Word of God?
- Is it a book that speaks w/some authority or is it the final authority?
- Is it a book that is useful for some things or is it sufficient in all things?

How we view this book will determine how we use it!

The reformers held to a view of “Sola Scriptura” – “Scripture Alone.”

Meaning that only Scripture has the place of ultimate authority in our lives.

This became one of the primary causes of the Reformation - a disagreement over who can say what is true - about God, ourselves & our world!

The reformers believed that **God Himself has spoken truth in the pages of Scripture**, & that all people need is for that truth to be brought to light!

Proverbs 30:5-6 – “Every word of God proves true... Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you & be found a liar.” Meaning don’t insert a “but”!

Whether we believe it or not, like it or not, understand it all or not, where God speaks, His Word alone is to be sufficient & authoritative in our lives!

Psalm 19:7-11 reminds us that Scripture is perfect, sure, right, pure, true, righteous & enduring. **For those who keep it, there is great reward!**

But the Roman Catholic Church had added a “but” which led to the belief that “Scripture and ...” church tradition, the papacy & church councils were all necessary to receive, understand & apply the Word of God correctly.

The problem the reformers exposed was that traditions, popes & councils can/do err. **Man cannot be above the Bible, the Bible must be above us!**

But how could the people discern this, when they couldn’t read the Scriptures for themselves? If you control people’s education, you can control them!

The church had become the sole vessel of God’s Revelation, & they began to distort the Word of God to fit their own agenda! The reformers objected!

The church was never intended to be the vessel of God’s Revelation! **The Word itself is the vessel**, the Church’s role is to simply proclaim it & trust the Holy Spirit to bring discernment & produce the fruit of faith in people’s lives.

Consider the “Parable of the Sower” – Our job is to sow the seed of the Word of God, **it is God’s job to produce the growth!**

It is our job to do all we can to help people experience the Word of God, and trust that God will not let His Word return to Him void! **Isaiah 55:11**

But what about this passage this morning about the 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus? How does this encounter w/ Jesus speak to “Scripture Alone?”

These 2 men were sad, confused & lost. **They encountered Jesus along the road but didn’t recognize Him**. God, in their midst, but they didn’t know it!

Isn’t this often true for us today? God is right in front of us, all around us, active in bringing about His purposes in this world, but we can’t see Him.

Why? **Because our hearts need to be moved by the Word of God** & our eyes need to be opened! This is exactly what Jesus did with them along the road!

It says in vs 27 – **“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.”**

Jesus uses the Scriptures to reveal truth to them concern Himself. **And even though they didn’t see it immediately, they wanted more!** When they reached Emmaus they urged Jesus strongly to stay with them to tell them more! – Vs 29

Jesus then breaks bread with them just as He did at the Last Supper and then in vs. 31, it says **“their eyes were opened and they recognized him.”**

The path to discovering truth is the path of the Word of God! Jesus opened their eyes to it by opening the Scriptures to them!

Here these powerful words, **“Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures.” Vs. 32**

My heart’s desire for this church is that our hearts would burn within us for the Word of God, and that our eyes would be opened to the truth, all of God’s truth, as the Word of God reveals it to us!

One of my favorite Scripture passages is **2 Timothy 3:16-17**. Let it be true of us!

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