

found in scripture, but rather as our 39 Articles explain (p 477 APBA), “Holy Scripture contains all things necessary to salvation; so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of the Faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation.”

The sufficiency of Scripture protects us against a morass of rituals and beliefs that develop over the centuries. Such accretions become a tangled burden that asks for more than faith, and detracts from the simplicity of the gospel of grace.

Thirdly, sola scripture attests to the **clarity of the Scriptures**. This does not mean that all of the bible is crystal clear to every Christian. It also does not signify that pastors and teachers are not needed to help laypeople understand Scripture (Eph. 4:11-12). The clarity of Scripture denotes that any person can read the bible for themselves and discover the basic way of salvation. Though parts of the bible are undoubtedly difficult to understand, this does not threaten the clarity of Scripture. Rather, what’s unclear in the bible, should be understood in the light of what is clear. It is precisely because the bible is clear, that having it translated into a common language is so important. And it was this conviction that prompted William Tyndale to say to his detractor: “If God spare my life, ere many years I will cause a boy who drives a plough to know more of the Scriptures than you do.” Everybody needs to be fed with God’s word, and preachers are best held accountable when God’s people have an open Bible in their hands. Tyndale believed this so firmly that he lost his life for translating Scripture into the common tongue.

Sola scripture is a simple phrase, but contained within it are three critical truths: the Bible is our supreme authority, sufficient, and clear. All three are essential to the life of God’s people.

Collect

Everliving God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified; hear the prayers we offer for all your faithful people, that in the ministry to which you have called them each may serve you in holiness and truth; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.



St Luke’s Anglican Church Emerald

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Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us [Ephesians 5:1-2]

Ordinary 20 (18th August)

Job 38:1-11

Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Mark 4:35-41

Ordinary 21 (25th August)

1 Kings 8:22-30, 41-43

Psalm 84

Ephesians 6:10-20

John 6:56-69

The Real Meaning of Sola Scripture

2017 was the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. Out of that Reformation emerged what we call the five *solas*. By *sola* we mean ‘that which stands alone’. Thus we profess grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, to the glory of God alone, and by authority of the scriptures alone. And of all these *solas* it is scripture alone that is the most readily misunderstood.

The meaning of sola scripture is firstly, that **the bible is the supreme authority** over the church. It does not mean that Scripture is the only authority. If it were, then there’d be no value in reading anything but the bible, and no point in learning from Christians who have gone before us. But reason and tradition do have a place in our theology. They function however, not as equal to or greater than Scripture, but as subsidiary to it. Scripture alone carries final and infallible authority, precisely because it is God’s word. All human authorities (including reason, tradition, and church leadership) are fallible and must submit to Scripture. As Heinrich Bullinger, a Swiss Reformation Theologian said: “As God’s word is confirmed by no human authority, so no human power is able to weaken its strength”. It is the supreme authority of Scripture that serves to keep church leadership accountable.

The second meaning of sola scripture relates to the **sufficiency of Scripture**. The Scripture needs no supplementation with various rituals and beliefs not found in the bible. Such is not a claim that all truth is

A guide for our prayers during the week

Monday

Our diocese and the gospel

- Bishop Peter
- Other parishes

Tuesday

Our church and the gospel

- Children and youth
- Families
- Seniors
- Kerry and Nancy

Wednesday

Our community and the gospel

- St Luke's Op Shop
- Blackwater
- Emerald Churches

Thursday

Our nation and the gospel

- Prime minister
- State and local government
- Religious Freedom legislation

Friday

God's world and the gospel

- Islamisation
- War and poverty
- Persecuted Church
- CMS and ABM

Saturday

Ministry and the gospel

- Bible Studies
- Food for Body and Soul
- Wardens and Parish Council
- Rev Daniel and Jenni

Dates to Remember

Today	4 pm service
22 August	Bible study at 5.30 pm – 1 Peter.
24 August	Lay Development Day – Emerald
25 August	Fellowship lunch
7 September	Barra Fishing Day

	18 August	25 August
Service Leader	Russell	Daniel
Read	Donna	Natalie
Prayers	Dianne	Russell
Shop	Donna & Ted	
Grounds		

The BCA Prayer

Lord our God, help us to remember those who live in isolated and remote parts of our land. We ask you to strengthen and encourage all whose ministries are supported by The Bush Church Aid Society.

Refresh them in times of discouragement and loneliness and call others to stand with them in the task of making Christ known.

Grant that, through the ministry of the Word and Sacraments, through caring service and by support for young people, the message of your redeeming love may be proclaimed and accepted by the people of our land. We ask these things through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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