

JOHN 1:1-16

The Five Solas of the Reformation Sola Scriptura – Scripture Alone

Scripture and The Word

As we ponder the 500th anniversary of the Reformation we accept the invitation to think about the contemporary Christian Church and one of the initiators in the effort to bring about reform in the existing church. We have an opportunity to see through the eyes of Martin Luther and get a glimpse of his life and relationship with the church through his writings and through the information written about him. Today we focus on scripture and how it enhances our personal faith and leads us toward responsible action as people of God.

Luther had problems with his church as we might have problems with our own, but the consequences for him were life threatening. The time was right for him to state his objections to the existing doctrines and practices of the Roman Catholic Church at the time. He stated his objections in the 95 Theses. The story continues and leads us into personal examination of faith in our age. This anniversary time can provoke reflection and dialogue as we live our faith. Hopefully it allows us to ask fundamental questions about the Grace of God and the nature of Salvation.

Words of Scripture are sacred for us and they are enough to actively lead us to Christ. We believe and need to understand that Jesus Christ is the Word from the beginning. Biblical lessons paint for us an inspired message that lives in our hearts and ushers us into God's presence. We are led to the Word when we allow Holy Scripture to move us toward the Christ on a regular basis.

We have been given all we need.

Take a moment to think about how scripture informs us about Jesus and what it means to think of Him as Word. It is important to consider the image of God that we have been given as Christian people and as we appreciate a clear view of Christ and His ways.

Words of scripture are holy when they direct us toward a living spiritual life. The words to the hymn, "Spirit of the Living God" are reminders of how God is part of our lives. Our lives of faith are shaped when we are melted, molded, filled and used through the grace of the everlasting God. In the beginning and even now the Word has been with us...by the grace of God.

Martin Luther had problems with his church when it seemed to be inventing political ways to falsely represent the Almighty and abuse self proclaimed power to accumulate

wealth and dominate people in ways that were not clearly of Christ. We too can be called to task by misrepresenting the Word and failing to follow faithfully.

Take a moment to think about scripture passages that have influenced you in discovering the living Word in your life. What are the stories of Jesus we have loved to hear? While we may each have our own special verses or stories how do they present to us challenging images of Christ that may be contrary to some of our personal desires while encouraging us to know that there really is a loving God.

Take a moment to think about how God encourages us to live our faith inspired by scripture. Share with someone several scripture lessons that have helped you in discovering the living Christ. Some examples might be the Lord's Prayer, Psalm 23, John 3:16&17, John 15:9, The Story of the Prodigal Son to name a few. How do the words of Scripture lead us to the Word?

Do the stories and verses come alive for us personally?

Are we open to change as we read or hear them?

Do the words change us and help us too grow in faith?

What is it that makes words of Scripture sacred?

Is it how they affect our daily actions?

Is it how they portray the image of Christ?

Is it about how they change our world view?