



***In It But Not of It
“Sola Scriptura”***

2 Timothy 3

Prior to paying for our sin on the cross, Jesus asked the Father:

“I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth” (John 17:14-19).

The church finds itself at a tipping point in terms of Scripture. This is nothing new. The age-old spiritual battle for truth and authority has been waging since the fall of mankind in the garden. However, the satanic tactics used to subvert the truth of Scripture are subtle and deceiving. Many naïve Christians believe the lies that have been perpetuated to undermine the authority of Scripture.

It has become very obvious that our present western culture has, for the most part, turned away from the principles of Scripture. We see it in all facets of western society. The Word of God is seen as antiquated and irrelevant by the unbelieving world. There are several reasons for this, but none more pointed than the church itself. The world will not have a high view of Scripture unless those who claim to live by it do so, without compromise.

***When believers surrender their COMMITMENT to the Word as absolute truth, the church becomes INFLUENCED rather than being the INFLUENCE. (2 Timothy 3:1-9)
(cf. Mark 7:18-23; Hebrews 10:16)***

The point is this: the last days of the church age will be filled with self-absorbed people. They will refuse to accept the authority of the Scripture in order to satisfy their own rebellion against God as the standard of truth.

The whole counsel of God is absolute truth, Genesis – Revelation. There is one interpretation of Scripture (history – culture – language), but there are many applications that can be made. These applications make the truth of a passage in Genesis or Leviticus, written thousands of years ago, extremely relevant even today. Answers to questions such as “What does the scripture say about the holiness of God?” or “What does the scripture say about the sinfulness of people?” can be found in the truths of OT passages.

The church has been entrusted to SPEAK and LIVE His truth. (2 Timothy 3:10-15)

Anytime believers commit to learning and living the Word of God, they will always be out-of-step with culture. Some will even pay a price of suffering for that commitment. They may suffer in relationships, suffer in job loss or lack of promotion, suffer in feeling lonely, and suffer in feeling out of place. This is part of what Jesus meant when He said you are not of the world and you will be hated by the world because He was hated by the world.

The Scripture is the very WORDS of the Living God. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

The phrase Paul uses is “...***breathed out...***” In other words, the Bible contains the “expiration,” the “breathing out” from God. It is His revealed truth about who He is as The Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and it tells how He relates to sinful man by His mercy and grace.

APPLICATION:

Commit to the STUDY of Scripture as well as the discipline of TIME for that study. Allow it to become as necessary to you in the spiritual realm as food is to you in the physical realm.

Do not be ashamed of the principles that stand in CONTRAST to our culture. Instead, repeat them without COMPROMISE.

Do not try to make the Bible say something that it DOESN'T say, nor avoid saying something that the Bible does say. There is no such thing as a SILENT witness.