

# MOOREBANK – HAMMONDVILLE ANGLICAN CHURCHES

SERMON OUTLINE – 24<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Topic: Sola Scriptura – By Scripture Alone

## Luther and the Diet of Worms

Martin Luther: *"Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason - I do not accept the authority of the popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other - my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. God help me. Amen."*

Johann Eck: *"Martin, there is no one of the heresies which have torn the bosom of the church, which has not derived its origin from the various interpretation of the Scripture. The Bible itself is the arsenal whence each innovator has drawn his deceptive arguments. It was with biblical texts that Pelagius and Arius maintained their doctrines ..."*

### 1. What did the Reformers mean by Sola Scriptura?

Jacob Andreae: *"We believe, teach, and confess that the only rule and guiding principle according to which all teachings and teachers are to be evaluated and judged are the prophetic and apostolic writings of the Old and New Testaments alone ... Other writings of ancient or contemporary teachers, whatever their names may be, shall not be regarded as equal to Holy Scripture, but all of them together shall be subjected to it."*

John Calvin: *"[Scripture], therefore, is a special gift, where God, to instruct the church, not merely uses mute teachers but also opens his own most hallowed lips. Not only does he teach the elect to look upon a god, but also shows himself as the God upon whom they are to look."*

### 2. Christians today think far too highly of their own thoughts about the Bible

Saint Augustine: *"If we read once, twice, or thrice, and understand not, let us not cease so, but still continue reading, praying, asking of other; and so, by still knocking, at the last the door shall be opened."*

### 3. The Scriptures are food for the soul

Anglican Homily on Scripture: *"As drink is pleasant to them that be dry, and meat to them that be hungry, so is the reading, hearing, searching, and studying of holy Scripture to them that be desirous to know God or themselves, and to do his will."*

John Calvin: *"For errors can never be uprooted from human hearts until true knowledge of God is planted therein."*

Anglican Homily on Scripture: *"How can any man then say that he professeth Christ and his religion, if he will not apply himself, as far forth as he can or may conveniently, to read and hear, and so to know, the books of Christ's Gospel and doctrine? [...] What excuse shall we therefore make at the last day before Christ, that delight to read or hear men's phantasies and inventions more than his most holy Gospel; and will find no time to do that which chiefly, above all things, we should do"*

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### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR REFLECTION

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1. What problem was the church trying to address by making the teachings of councils and popes the highest authority?

#### **Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17.**

2. What does Paul say here about:
  - the origin of the Scriptures?
  - the authority of the Scriptures?
  - the purpose of the Scriptures?
  - the sufficiency of the Scriptures?
3. What questions should we ask as we read any text of the Scriptures?
4. Why is access to the Bible in our own language important?
5. How do we “continue in what [we] have learned and firmly believe”?

#### **Read 1 Corinthians 2:10-16.**

6. Who has the mind of Christ – Is it individual Christians or the church as a whole? (cf. Rom. 12:16; Rom. 15:5; 2 Cor. 13:11; 1 Pet. 3:8)
7. How does God give his people the mind of Christ? What is it about him that makes him suitable for this task?
8. Do you think this occurs through the Scriptures or independently of them?

#### **Thinking it through**

8. How does the word of God feature in your life?
9. Have you been regularly reading and reflecting upon the word of God? What practical changes can you make to prioritize this?

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<sup>1</sup> This bible study is adapted from Dominic Steele, *Ideas That Changed the World* (Sydney: Matthias Media, 2017).