

# conviction *not* culture

WEEK 2 | 2 Timothy 3:16

## “Sola Scriptura”

### Luther’s Three Disputations:

#### 1. HEIDELBERG

Refute indulgences, Thomistic theology, i.e., the sacramental system.

#### 2. AUGSBURG

Pope was subject to Scripture – Luther to Cardinal Cajetan – Luther’s appeal was to the Bible as the Christian’s supreme authority. The cardinal reminded Luther that Scripture had to be interpreted and that only the Pope was capable of this task. He went on to assert that the Pope was above Scripture, above a council, and above everything in the church. Luther would not be intimidated. He replied, “I deny that the Pope is above Scripture. His Holiness abuses Scripture.”

#### 3. LEIPZIG

Sola scriptura – Johann Eck – Luther to Eck at Leipzig after tiring of him taking Scripture out of context and citing irrelevant sources, “*I grieve that the holy doctor penetrates the Scriptures as profoundly as a water spider the water; in fact, he flees from them as the devil from the Cross. Therefore, with all reverence for the Fathers, I prefer the authority of the Scriptures, which I commend to future judges.*” Luther rejected the Church’s claims that could NOT be substantiated in Scripture.

### Inerrancy

*“The inerrancy of Scripture means that Scripture in the original manuscripts does not affirm anything which is contrary to fact.”*

- » *“The Bible is authoritative only for faith and practice.” This position would allow for the Bible to make false statements about history or scientific facts.*
- » *“If it is inerrant, why are there so many different interpretations?” We are fallible. God is not, and it is not his fault if we fallibly understand, twist, ignore, misapply his Revelation.*
- » *“We don’t have any of the original manuscripts, so the talk of inerrancy is a moot point.”*

*“If we lost the Constitution, we would compare hundreds of copies of the Constitution, and where they agreed, we would have reason for confidence that what we had was true.” - Grudem*

*“A similar process occurred in determining the original words of the Bible. For over 99% of the words of the Bible, we know what the original manuscript said. Even where there are textual variances, the correct decision is often quite clear.” - Grudem*

### Is it Reliable?

When the gospel was being spread, sectarian heresies sprang up (Gnostic, Docetic, Nestorian). Most of these are in the 2nd century. When an error arose, the early church fathers would confront it using Scripture. By writing against these and other heresies, the early church fathers left a record of the New Testament account.

Sir David Dalrymple found **86,489** of these quotations. How many predate the 4th century? (i.e. Nicaea) We have all 27 books of the N.T. listed.

- » Justin Martyr – 330
- » Irenaeus – 1800
- » Clement of Alexandria – 2400
- » Origen - +/- 18,000 (early vs late contributions)
- » Tertullian – 7,200
- » Hippolytus – 7,000
- » Eusebius – 5,175

**All total 36,289** – These quotes cover every N.T. verse other than 11 verses that are “inconsequential.” (>5000 verses in N.T.)

## WE HAVE OVER 24,000 MANUSCRIPTS

- » 5,664 in Gk.
- » 10,000 in Latin
- » 350 Syriac (from 2nd)
- » 100 Coptic (3rd)
- » 2500 Armenian (5th)
- » 6 Gothic (4th)
- » 4,000 - Georgian/Slavic - (5th)
- » 2,000 – Ethiopian/Nubian (6th)

Muslims claim the N.T. has been corrupted. For the Muslim claim to be true, we would have to go back through all 24,000 of these manuscripts, 15,000 of them in other languages, and make consistent changes without anybody knowing it, complaining about it, and with not one reference to it ever happening.