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House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 20 NUMBER 6



Some members of the church of Christ say it is unique among the 33,000 churches in the world.

Since *unique* means “the only one of its kind,” could this really be true? Making the claim proves nothing, so let’s test the hypothesis by looking at things some think are unique about the church of Christ.

Is the church of Christ the only church that tries to follow the Bible exactly? The church of Christ believes the Bible is the verbally inspired Word of God, and that God gave it as the only guide for churches (2 Timothy 3:16–17).

Surprisingly, this is not the case in all religious groups. Many would be taken aback to learn that their preachers, if pressured, would admit they do not believe the Bible to be the inerrant word of God.

- Some doubt the creation account (Genesis 1–3), saying that Adam and Eve are invented characters.
- Some deny that Noah built a literal ark to survive a global flood (Genesis 6–9).
- Moses parting the Red Sea? Only an overexcited writer embellishing a boring exodus account (Exodus 14:21–30).
- Jonah and the fish? A fish fairy tale.
- Prophecies foretelling events in Jesus’ life? Coincidences.
- Feeding five thousand? Just a boy’s generosity inspiring people to share what they had hoarded (John 6:1–14).

- Walking on water? He knew where the rocks were (Mark 6:48).
- Virgin-born (Matthew 1) and third-day resurrected? (Matthew 28). Just legends.

There is no middle ground when it comes to the Bible: Either it is a fraud and should all be rejected, or it is from God and should all be accepted. It claims inspiration (2 Peter 1:21); it claims perfection (Psalm 19:7). Strong evidence supports it, such as fulfilled prophecies, prescientific statements, freedom from contradictions, honest portrayal of heroes, brevity of expression, and archeological/manuscript evidence.

We cannot choose what we deem acceptable. That puts man over Scripture instead of Scripture over man. Augustine said, “If you believe what you like in the gospels, and reject what you don’t like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself.”

But the church of Christ is not unique in defending the Bible or in trying to follow it. Many churches have high regard for Scripture and defend inspiration, creation, and miracles, while opposing evolution, humanism, and modernism.

Is the church of Christ unique in its members’ love for each other and others?

Jesus said that love would be the distinguishing characteristic of true disciples (John 13:33–34). A church that is harsh, caustic, neglectful, and unmerciful loses

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1

the spirit of the one whose body it claims to be (1 Peter 2:21; John 8:1–11).

Churches of Christ take love seriously. Possibly no subject is preached more often, but it is more than just a message. Churches operate homes for orphans, abused children, and seniors. Members sit with families in surgery waiting rooms. They also mow grass and clean houses for those with injuries, help addicts, send needy students to summer camp and college, take older members to doctors' visits, provide mothers days out, help with divorce recovery, provide counseling for depression and grief, and pray daily for those who request it.

Youth groups frequently take to the streets to paint houses, clean up unsightly areas, and give food and clothes to the poor. Elders send relief money to congregations in disaster areas to distribute among the displaced and suffering. Some load trucks and drive hundreds of miles to pass out street by street bottled water, packaged food, toiletries, and cleaning supplies. Others go to foreign lands to help with medical needs, farming techniques, well-digging, and literacy.


Is this unique? It would be untrue to say churches of Christ alone have a spirit of compassion. Many churches, including Catholics, Baptists, and Methodists, do amazing things in their communities and make a lasting difference around the world.

Is the church of Christ the only group that believes in one body and one faith? (Ephesians 4:4–5). The church of Christ believes in “endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit” based on the seven great unifiers: One body, one Spirit, one hope; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God (Ephesians 4:3–6).

God desires unity of fellowship (one body) based on the standard of the gospel (one faith). Like the early disciples, unity can be had today by continuing “stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers” (Acts 2:42).

Divisions caused by preacher-following and denominational allegiances violate Jesus’ prayer (John 17:20–21) and Paul’s instruction (1 Corinthians 1:10–13). Since the Bible only makes Christians only (Luke 8:11; Acts 11:26), all should prefer “Christian” to man-made labels. In matters of faith, strive for unity; in opinions, grant liberty; and in all things, practice love.

Let us have no creed but Christ; follow no Book but the Bible; desire no home but



*“He wants to bless
us. He wants to
save us. He does not
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heaven. In pursuit of unity, replace man’s creeds with Christ’s Testament. If a creed says less, it does not say enough; if more, too much; if the same, it is unnecessary. If all speak only where Scripture speaks and are silent where it is silent, unity will inevitably follow. Everything we believe and practice needs a book, chapter, and verse (Colossians 3:17).

Is the church of Christ unique in calling for one body based on one faith? Not entirely. Other churches have broken sectarian ties to pursue undenominational Christianity.

Is the church of Christ unique in a weekly observance of the Lord’s supper? Most groups serve communion infrequently. For instance, Lifeway surveyed 1,066 Southern Baptist pastors and found that

- 1 percent offered the Lord’s supper weekly,
- 18 percent once a month,
- 15 percent 5–10 times a year,
- 57 percent quarterly, and
- 8 percent 0–3 times a year.

Many mainline churches would have similar practices. The Roman Catholic Church requires taking the Eucharist (bread) only once a year, but it does offer mass daily.

The church of Christ takes the Lord’s supper every Lord’s day, since that was the practice of the early church (Acts 20:7). Bible scholars agree that the early church had weekly communion:

- John Calvin: “We ought always to provide that no meeting of the church is held without the word, prayer, the dispensation of the Supper, and alms. We may gather from Paul that this was the order observed by the Corinthians, and it is certain that this was the practice many ages after” (*Institutes of Christian Religion*).

- Adam Clarke, Methodist: “Intimating by this, that they were accustomed to receive the holy sacrament on each Lord’s Day.”
- A. C. Hervey, Church of England: “This is also an important example of weekly communion as the practice of the first Christians” (*Pulpit Commentary*).
- Albert Barnes, Presbyterian: “It is probable that the apostles and early Christians celebrated the Lord’s Supper on every Lord’s Day” (*Barnes’ Notes*).

The language used in Acts 20:7 of the supper (“upon the first day of the week”) is identical to that used in 1 Corinthians 16:2 of giving. Since all churches (so far as I know) use 1 Corinthians 16:2 as authority to take a weekly collection, why not interpret the same language the same way and have weekly communion?

Jesus left the supper as a memorial of His death. It connects His first and second comings with weekly markers of His sacrifice. If a serviceman visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and found no soldier guarding it, would he take it as an affront? If one went to JFK’s grave in Arlington, only to find that caretakers had let the “eternal flame” go out, would she feel Kennedy’s name was slighted? We might wonder how Jesus feels when Sunday after Sunday passes with no memorial feast.

Is this unique? No—at least three other churches (Catholic, Christian Church, Disciples of Christ) offer weekly communion.

Is the church of Christ unique because it is “politically incorrect”? The church of Christ pledges primary allegiance to Christ and not to any nation, political figure, party, or view (Acts 4:19; 5:29). Its pulpits stress holy living (Galatians 5:19–21). While some denominations have modified their views over the years, churches of Christ still teach the same things as two hundred years ago—even as they did two thousand years ago.

Since the Bible has not changed—and must all be preached (Acts 20:26–27)—churches of Christ still speak against such sins as abortion (Proverbs 6:17), adultery (Romans 13:9), animal cruelty (Deuteronomy 25:4; Proverbs 12:10), child abuse (Matthew 18:6; Titus 2:4), civil disobedience (Romans 13:1–6), cursing (Colossians 3:8), dancing (Matthew 14:6; Galatians 5:19–21), fornication (Colossians 3:5), hatred (Proverbs 10:12), homosexuality (Romans 1:18–32), hypocrisy (Luke 12:1), immodest dress (1 Timothy 2:9), judging (Matthew 7:1), lying (Colossians 3:9), poor stewardship (money, environment) (1 Corinthians 4:2), pornography (Matthew 5:8, 28), pride (Proverbs 6:16–17), racism (Acts 10:34), rape (Deuteronomy 22:25), self-righteousness (Matthew 5:20), and social drinking (Proverbs 20:1; Ephesians 5:18).

But others, such as the Church of God, Church of God in Christ, Pentecostals, and Seventh Day Adventists, are known for strong moral convictions. Many members of most churches live morally pure lives and stand for what is right. This is not unique.

Is the church of Christ unique because it sings a cappella? In seeking to follow the New Testament exactly, churches of Christ do not use mechanical instruments in worship. Every New Testament passage on church music refers to singing: Acts 16:25; Romans 15:9; 1 Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 2:12; and James 5:13. Instruments were available to the early church, and were used in Jewish worship, yet they sang a cappella. Historically, no instruments were used for centuries, and were opposed by such reformers as Luther and Calvin. Since worship must be in spirit and truth (John 4:24; 17:17), it is unsafe to go beyond New Testament instruction (2 John 1:9).

Is this unique? No; millions of worshippers around the world will sing a cappella next Sunday, including the Greek Orthodox and many Primitive Baptist churches.

Is the church of Christ unique in its vision to carry the whole gospel to the whole world? Filled with aspiration and longing for heaven, churches of Christ have hope to share with others. World evangelism has always been the church's major task and joy (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15). Churches of Christ have missionaries scattered across the globe, with many dedicating their lives to reaching a nation with the gospel.

But this is not unique. Catholics, Baptists, Adventists, Mormons, and

Jehovah's Witnesses, are all known for world evangelism.

Is the church of Christ unique in its teaching on baptism? Churches of Christ practice baptism of believers (Acts 8:37). At their stage of development, infants are incapable of belief and confession (Mark 16:15–16; Romans 10:9–10), and have no sins of which to repent (Acts 2:38; Matthew 18:3), so they are not baptized. This is not unique, though, since many groups baptize only believers.

Churches of Christ practice baptism by immersion in water, since the New Testament word *baptize* means “to submerge.” In Bible times, baptisms were always “burials” (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12). There is no historical example of sprinkling until a.d. 251 when Eusebius wrote of Novation's “baptism” (*Ecclesiastical History*). Eusebius doubted that it qualified as a baptism even though “buckets” or “barrels” were used.

Unique? No. Baptist churches, for instance, insist on immersion. Hiscox dedicates sixteen pages to defend the practice in the *Standard Manual for Baptist Churches*.

Churches of Christ practice baptism for the remission of sins, based on the Bible's teaching that baptism saves (Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21), is for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), and washes away sins (Acts 22:16).

Is this unique? Millions outside the church of Christ practice baptism for remission of sins. Catholics, the Christian Church, the Disciples of Christ, and Mormons all teach baptism as necessary for salvation.

So is the church of Christ unique? Yes!

How can this be if there is not a single doctrine or practice that is found only in the church of Christ? The answer is that the church of Christ is the only group that believes and practices all of these things. All churches practice some, and some practice many, but only one teaches all.

God is so wonderful. He wants to bless us. He wants to save us. He does not want a single person to be lost (1 Timothy 2:4). He gave His Son for us.

Consider this your invitation. Feel free to come Sunday and make your own evaluation. “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

Author's Note: I once heard W. T. Allison preach an excellent sermon similar to this study. And I recently found a published sermon by the late Bobby Duncan that provided many of the thoughts in this article. “He being dead yet speaketh” (Hebrews 11:4).



Peace to the World

The Charter of the United Nations was signed in June 1945. The stated purpose for its existence was to maintain peace and security, to solve problems, and to promote harmony among nations. However, since it was signed, there have only been twenty-six days without armed conflict somewhere in the world. For sure, nations and individuals should work for peace. All people should be peacemakers (Matthew 5:9). However, true and lasting peace can only be found by submitting to Christ and following His Word (Ephesians 2:14–16).



“Bed Hard”

A man entered a monastery and agreed to a vow of silence. He could only speak two words every ten days. After the first ten days he uttered two words: “Bed hard.” Ten days later he said: “Food bad.” Then after another ten days had passed he said, “I quit.” The head of the monastery replied, “Good, you’ve done nothing but complain ever since you’ve been here.” —Allen Eldridge, May 18, 2014 bulletin of the Regency Church of Christ, Mobile, Alabama

Home PAGE



Breaking Point

Speaking at a commencement, John A. Howard, director of the Rockford College Institute, recalled a childhood memory of his Uncle Ralph, whose home he often visited:

"It was a farm, and my uncle always began the day by going out at dawn to get a pitcher of water from the pump.

"One morning there was a crash of the screen door, and then there was another crash. My brothers and I went to the window and looked down, and there was Uncle Ralph. He had slipped on some ice and fallen.

"Aunt Mary yelled through the door at him, 'Ralph, Ralph, did you break Mother's blue pitcher?'

"'No, my dear, I didn't,' he said. 'But I will.'

"And he did."

"A merry heart doeth good."

PROVERBS 17:22



For more material on the home and family, fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, grandparents, and family finances, go to www.housetohouse.com.

Ethics for Homes

Every principle of God's Word that applies to our conduct toward Him and with others has an application in the home. However, God's Word contains some specific principles for each member of the home.

Ethical principles for husbands and wives.

- Leave father and mother and become one flesh (Matthew 19:4–6; Ephesians 5:31).
- Do not commit adultery (Romans 13:9).
- Be holy and possess the other in sanctification (1 Thessalonians 4:4–8).
- Dwell with each other according to knowledge (1 Peter 3:7).
- Do not defraud each other sexually (1 Corinthians 7:5).

Ethical principles for husbands and fathers.

- Love your wife as Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25, 28, 33).
- Provide for your own (1 Timothy 5:8).
- Provoke not your children to wrath but nurture them (Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21).

Ethical principles for wives and mothers.

- Marry, bear children, rule the household, give no occasion to the adversary (1 Timothy 5:14).
- Be in subjection to your own husband (Ephesians 5:22–24; Colossians 3:18).
- Love your husband and your children, be sober minded, chaste, work at home, be kind (Titus 2:4–5).
- Be an example of the Word by chaste behavior and modest adorning (1 Peter 3:1–6).

Ethical principles for children, brothers and sisters.

- Obey your parents (Colossians 3:20; Ephesians 6:1–3).
- Honor your parents (Ephesians 6:2; Matthew 15:1–9).
- Provide for parents when they need it (1 Timothy 5:4).
- Love your brothers and sisters (cf. Genesis 37).

Let us pray for God's help and strive with all our might to practice in our homes the ethics of Christ. —Unknown

"Be ye followers of me . . . as I also am of Christ."

1 CORINTHIANS 11:1



Does It Really Make Any Difference?

Does it really make any difference what we believe and practice in religion?

Consider five key passages:

Jesus commanded followers to teach new disciples “to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:20). How many things could be left out and still fulfill this command? Would seventy-five percent or even ninety percent qualify for “all things”? Surely the goal of every church should be to teach one hundred percent of Christ’s doctrine.

Jesus once gave a sobering preview of Judgment Day: “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21). Claiming allegiance is insufficient. Saying is no substitute for obeying. How much of God’s will can be rejected and still meet the standard of doing the Father’s will?

Will one gamble his soul that God did not mean what He said in “this verse,” or that we can omit “that practice” because it does not fit our preferences or modern culture?

Jesus said, “Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32). Since only the truth sets free, how much error can be mixed with it before it ceases to invigorate and liberate? Can we mix God’s doctrine and man’s doctrines in equal amounts? (cf. Mark 7:7–8). No, the only safe percentage is all of God’s doctrine, and none of man’s. The devil added only one word to God’s original command (Genesis 3:3–4), but it ruined Eve. Rat poison is deadly although it is ninety-nine percent wheat and only one percent poison.

Paul wrote, “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: which is not another; but there

be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:6–8). Different “gospels” bring a curse. Christ’s gospel saves (Romans 1:16); no other message can (Acts 4:12; John 14:6).

The Bible’s final warning says: “If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life” (Revelation 22:18–19). In light of this, should we add new doctrines today? Is it safe to omit what the Holy Spirit included?

It really does make a difference. Pilate’s advice is still worth following: “Make it as sure as ye can” (Matthew 27:65).

—Allen Webster

Bible QUIZ

Send us your answers (address on front) to receive a FREE Bible bookmark. We’ll grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark “A Quick Look at the Baptist Church” as a way of saying thanks for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Questions Taken from the King James Version

Answers to Last Issue: *The Birth of Jesus:* 1. Gabriel (Luke 1:26); 2. Virgin, Son (Matthew 1:23); 3. Child, son (Isaiah 9:6); 4. An angel (Matthew 1:19–20); 5. The Holy Ghost (Matthew 1:18–20); 6. Take her to be his wife (Matthew 1:20); 7. Caesar Augustus (Luke 2:1); 8. Cyrenius (Luke 2:2); 9. Nazareth (Luke 2:4); 10. To be enrolled for taxes (Luke 2:3–5); 11. David (Luke 2:4); 12. Bethlehem (Luke 2:4–6); 13. Swaddling clothes (Luke 2:7); 14. A manger (feeding trough) (Luke 2:7); 15. Peace (Luke 2:14); 16. God with us (Matthew 1:23); 17. Word, flesh (John 1:14); 18. Eight (Luke 2:21); 19. Pair of turtledoves (pigeons) (Luke 2:24); 20. After she brought forth Jesus (Matthew 1:25); 21. Herod (Matthew 2:1); 22. Egypt (Matthew 2:13).

VOLUME 20:6



About Those Disciples

Directions: Find your answers in Matthew 9:9; Luke 6:13; John 20:24; Acts 1:26; 2:1–3, 38, 41–42; 5:1–6; 9:3–5; 11:26; 12:1–2; 14:19–20; 17:16–19; 20:9; 21:39; 22:3, 25; 1 Corinthians 15:8; Colossians 4:14; 1 Timothy 5:23; Titus 1:4–5

1. At first, how many disciples did Jesus choose to be apostles? _____
2. Which disciple had previously collected taxes as a publican? _____
3. Which disciple missed the first resurrection appearance? _____
4. Due to health reasons, Paul encouraged Timothy to drink what instead of only water? _____
5. Which apostle survived stoning? _____
6. Which preacher was left on the island of Crete to set things in order? _____
7. Who was called the “beloved physician”? _____
8. What day did the Spirit descend upon the apostles as tongues of fire? _____
9. What did Peter tell those on Pentecost who asked what to do to be saved? _____
10. How many were baptized on Pentecost? _____
11. In what four things did the early Christians steadfastly continue? _____
12. Where were the apostles first called Christians? _____
13. Who was chosen as an apostle to replace Judas? _____
14. Which apostle was “born out of due time”? _____
15. Which apostle did Herod execute? _____
16. Which apostle was a Roman citizen? _____
17. What is the hometown of the apostle Paul? _____
18. Who, with his wife, sold a field and brought money to the apostles? _____
19. In what city did Paul speak on the Areopagus, or “Mars’ Hill”? _____
20. Who fell out of a window when Paul was preaching? _____
21. What road was Paul traveling on when Jesus appeared to him? _____

30 Old Testament Verses to

1. **Genesis 1:1** Origin of the universe
2. **Genesis 1:26** Man's relationship to God and place in creation
3. **Genesis 2:24** The foundation of marriage
4. **Genesis 3:15** First prophecy of Jesus and Calvary
5. **Genesis 6:8** Noah found grace
6. **Genesis 12:3** Promise to Abraham
7. **Exodus 3:14** I AM THAT I AM
8. **Exodus 12:13** When I see the blood, I will pass over you
9. **Exodus 20:2-17** The Ten Commandments
10. **Deuteronomy 6:4-5** Hear, O Israel
11. **Joshua 1:9** Be courageous
12. **Joshua 24:15** As for me and my house
13. **Ruth 1:15-16** Whither thou goest, I will go
14. **Psalms 23:1** The Lord is my Shepherd
15. **Psalms 46:1** God is a refuge and strength

Learn Before You Die

16. **Psalms 119:11** Hide the Word in the heart
17. **Proverbs 3:5-6** Source of wisdom for living
18. **Proverbs 14:12** Danger of following man's wisdom
19. **Proverbs 22:6** Train a child
20. **Ecclesiastes 12:1** Remember thy Creator in youth
21. **Isaiah 2:3** Kingdom to be established in Zion
22. **Isaiah 7:14** A virgin shall conceive
23. **Isaiah 9:6** His name shall be called Wonderful
24. **Isaiah 40:31** Soar on wings like eagles
25. **Isaiah 53:3** A Man of Sorrows and acquainted with grief
26. **Isaiah 55:8** Wisdom of acknowledging God's supremacy
27. **Jeremiah 29:11** God has a plan for every person
28. **Ezekiel 18:20** Children are born perfect and sinless
29. **Daniel 2:44** Kingdom established in days of Roman kings
30. **Habakkuk 2:4** The just live by faith

Cut out this section and mail it to the address on the front.

Recommended Resource



Todd Clippard has committed to reading the Bible daily and sharing his thoughts on each day's reading with you. A missionary, he brings a global perspective to his writing, while remaining down-to-earth. Join us each day in the reading, and share your thoughts as well. To check it out, go to chaptertochapter.com.

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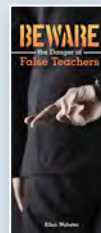
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☐ Booklet: Things a Christian Should Never Do

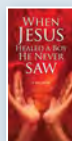


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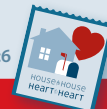
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Sola Scriptura

Pythagoras is said to have been the earliest outside of Scripture (Isaiah 40:22) to contend that the earth is round. He did not make the earth round with his assertions, but he identified what already was. Sir Isaac Newton certainly did not create gravity, but he is credited for our modern understanding of it.

Likewise, the term *sola scriptura* was coined during the Reformation Movement as part of Martin Luther's protests against perceived corruptions of the Catholic Church. It was a Latin phrase (literally "by Scripture alone") describing the "theological principle that Scripture is the final norm in all judgments of faith and practice. Church traditions and customs, pronouncements of church officials, civil law or any other purely human source, including human reason, must yield to clear scriptural pronouncements" (Reid, Daniel G., et al. *Dictionary of Christianity in America*, 1990: n.p.).

Did the Protestant Reformers originate that idea? No. And the fact that they reached some wrong doctrinal conclusions does not nullify the idea of *sola Scriptura*. Consider three important questions:

What does "by Scripture alone" mean?

It means that the Bible does not share authority with anyone or anything. One author says it means "the freedom of Scripture to rule as God's Word in the

church, disentangled from papal and ecclesiastical magisterium and tradition. It viewed the Word as supreme over tradition and the sacraments" (McArthur, John. *Expository Preaching*, 1992. Dallas: Word Pub., 47).

A creed book, discipline, or annual church conference may not vote about what should be believed, taught, and practiced. A religious group has no authority to claim a latter-day revelation and produce a book said to be co-authoritative with the Bible. None may say that "the church" or "church tradition" has authority with or over Scripture. "By Scripture alone" rejects competing standards.

It does not eliminate the need to handle aright (correctly interpret). One cannot read even the simplest of instructions or follow the most basic of tasks without employing logic, reason, and deduction. That is not the same thing as a person, group, or book that claims to rival or co-authorize with Scripture.

What is the alternative?

The alternative is to suggest that Scripture alone is insufficient or inadequate, that it is not the sole authority on matters of truth and right.

Why is it so important?

This is the crux of the matter. Scripture is God-breathed, making one spiritu-

ally complete (2 Timothy 3:16–17). If Scripture is sufficient, what need is there for anything beyond it? On what basis would we accept anything more or less than or different from the Bible? How could fallible man be equal to or co-authorize with the perfect law of the Lord?

Let us accept no substitute or rival to the Bible!

The reader is encouraged to consider some excellent thoughts on this subject from here: www.christiancourier.com/articles/557-what-is-sola-scriptura.

—Neal Pollard, Denver, Colorado



The God-Man

God in human flesh, as much man as if He were not God at all; as much God as if He were not man at all—not half God and half man, not all God and no man, not all man and no God; but the God-man. The God-man came to this earth, born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, was nailed to a cross, and with a broken heart died for me.

"Come unto me."

MATTHEW 11:28



Thoughts from the HEART

Blind Men of Hindustan

Most are conversant with the famous poem concerning the blind men of Hindustan who went to “see” an elephant. Since each was sightless and stationed at a different vantage point surrounding the huge creature, the six men came away with vastly different concepts regarding the elephant.

The first said, “An elephant is like a rope,” because he had felt the tail. Another, stationed at the ear, concluded it was like a fan. Another, feeling of its leg, said it was like a tree. Another thought an elephant was like a wall.

A partial view of the Bible is like that. Prejudice blinds many a person to the whole truth. Sectarian dogma, shallow teaching, emphasis on tradition, parochial thinking, and emotional persuasion contribute to spiritual blindness.

As John Saxe said of the blind men in his striking poem:

Each in his own opinion exceedingly
stiff and strong,
though each was partly in the right,
and all were in the wrong!

We must pursue “all the counsel of God” (Acts 20:27) and desire to be fully instructed on every Bible subject. The sum of God’s Word is truth (Psalm 119:160). Taking all that the Bible says on any doctrine forms the best commentary on the sacred Scriptures. This allows us to see the harmony and blend in God’s grace and man’s obedience.



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- Send-in questions (to be graded and returned to you)
- Comprehensive, yet simple, material
- No deadline—go at your own pace
- Completion certificate

Send this to the address on the front to receive your free course.

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Course (check one):

☐ Introduction to the Bible

☐ God’s Plan of Salvation

☐ Finding the Church of the Bible

