

The Fatal Flaws of Sola Scriptura – Version 3

THE CANON PROBLEM

Which books belong in the Bible? The Bible contains no table of contents.

Jesus Used a DIFFERENT Bible Than Protestants

Two OT Canons in Jesus' Time:

- **Septuagint (LXX):** Greek translation with 46 OT books (39 + 7 deuterocanonicals). Jesus & apostles used this.
- **Hebrew Bible:** ~39 books. Canon not officially closed until AFTER Jesus died.

Proof NT used Septuagint: Protestant scholars Archer & Chirichigno: 340 NT citations from LXX vs. only 33 from Hebrew. Jesus quoted LXX (Mark 7:6-7).

The 7 Missing Books: Tobit, Judith, 1-2 Maccabees, Wisdom, Sirach, Baruch + additions to Esther/Daniel.

Hebrews 11:35 Makes NO SENSE Without 2 Maccabees

Heb 11:35: "Some were tortured, refusing release that they might rise again to a better life"

Where is this story in Protestant OT? It's NOT there. It's in 2 Maccabees 7 (mother & 7 sons tortured, believing in resurrection).

Other NT references to deuterocanonicals: Rom 1 adapts Wisdom 13-14; Matt 11:28-30 echoes Sirach 6:23-30, 51:18-27; James 1:19 = Sirach 5:11.

Protestant OT Follows Rabbis Who REJECTED Jesus

Masoretic Text (Protestant OT basis): Compiled 7th-10th centuries AD—600-900 years AFTER Christ!

"Council of Jamnia" (c. 90 AD): Pharisees who rejected Jesus as Messiah discussed Hebrew canon, excluding deuterocanonicals.

Question: Why follow a canon determined by those who denied Christ? The OT Jesus used had MORE books!

Luther Removed Books Christians Used for 1,500 Years

- **Early Church (393-1500 AD):** Councils of Hippo (393), Carthage (397, 419) affirmed 46 OT books. Christians used 73-book Bible for 1,500 years.
- **Luther's 1534 revision:** Removed 7 deuterocanonicals, placed in "Apocrypha" section.
- **By what authority?** His personal preference! Also doubted Hebrews, James ("epistle of straw"), Jude, Revelation.

Who Decided the 27 NT Books?

NT canon developed gradually over 300+ years:

- Churches disagreed on Hebrews, Revelation, James, 2 Peter, 2-3 John, Jude
- Some used Shepherd of Hermas, Epistle of Barnabas, Didache as Scripture
- **Athanasius (367 AD):** First to list exactly 27 NT books
- **Councils confirmed:** Hippo (393), Carthage (397, 419)

Church (councils, bishops, tradition) determined canon. If Church had authority to determine canon, it has authority beyond canon. Therefore, Sola Scriptura is false.

1. SELF-REFUTATION

The Bible never teaches Sola Scriptura.

Protestant Admission: "Sola Scriptura is not formally stated or taught anywhere in Scripture." (Geisler & MacKenzie)

2 Tim 3:16-17 Fails:

- Paul referred to OT only (NT not yet written)
- "Profitable" ≠ "sufficient alone"
- James 1:4 uses stronger language about patience—does that prove "patience alone"?

What Bible Actually Teaches:

2 Thess 2:15: "Hold traditions whether by word, or our epistle"

1 Tim 3:15: "The church...pillar and ground of truth"

Matt 18:17: "Tell it to the church" (not Scripture)

2. CIRCULAR REASONING

Using the Bible to prove the Bible's sole authority is circular.

The Trap: How do you know the Bible is the sole authority? "Because the Bible says so." But you need an **external authority** to establish the Bible's authority—which destroys Sola Scriptura.

3. "SCRIPTURE INTERPRETS SCRIPTURE" FALLACY

Protestant Claim: "Unclear passages explained by clear passages—no church authority needed."

The Problem: YOU decide which passages are "clear," which "unclear," which interprets which.

Example: Does baptism save?

- **Mark 16:16:** "Baptized shall be saved"
- **Acts 16:31:** "Believe...and thou shalt be saved"

Which interprets which? **You decide.** That's not Scripture alone—it's YOUR interpretation alone.

4. INTERPRETIVE CHAOS

33,000+ Protestant denominations (World Christian Encyclopedia)

All claim: "We follow Scripture alone" + "The Holy Spirit guides us"

Yet disagree on: Baptism, communion, predestination, eternal security, women's ordination, end times, etc.

If Scripture alone were clear, there would be unity. Instead: chaos.

5. HISTORICAL IMPOSSIBILITY

Printing press invented 1440—1,400 years after Christ

Before that: Bibles rare, hand-copied, expensive. Most Christians illiterate. Impossible for average person to practice "Scripture alone."

Early Church Fathers affirmed Tradition + Authority:

- **Irenaeus (180):** Heretics misinterpret Scripture; apostolic tradition guards truth
- **Basil (375):** "Some from written teaching; others from tradition...both have same force"

6. PROTESTANT HYPOCRISY

If Protestants truly followed "Bible alone," they would practice ALL biblical commands.

What they SHOULD do but DON'T:

- ✗ Baptism for the dead (1 Cor 15:29)
- ✗ Requite apostles' laying on of hands for Holy Ghost (Acts 8:14-20, 19:5-6)
- ✗ Anoint sick with oil (James 5:14-15)
- ✗ Accept living apostles/prophets (Eph 4:11-14 "till we all come to unity")

They don't follow "Scripture alone"—they follow Scripture filtered through Protestant tradition.

7. THE BEREAN ARGUMENT (REBUTTED)

Protestant Claim: "Bereans checked Paul against Scripture—proves Sola Scriptura!" (Acts 17:11)

Why This Fails:

- They checked Paul's **oral teaching** (proves Scripture + Tradition)
- They had **authoritative teacher** (Paul the apostle)
- "Scripture" was OT only—still needed Paul to explain
- They **accepted Paul's authority** after verification (v.12)

This is the LDS pattern: verify prophetic teaching against Scripture, then accept living revelation.

PROTESTANT SELECTIVE OBEDIENCE: SUMMARY

Biblical Practice	Command	Protestant	LDS
Baptism for dead	1 Cor 15:29	✗ Rejected	✓ Temples
Laying on of hands (Holy Ghost)	Acts 8:14-20; 19:5-6	✗ Rejected	✓ After baptism
Anointing sick with oil	James 5:14-15	✗ Mostly ignored	✓ Priesthood
Baptism at age of accountability	Mark 10:14-15; Acts 16:15, 33	✗ Infant baptism (many)	✓ Age 8
Living apostles/prophets	Eph 4:11-14	✗ "Ceased"	✓ Twelve
Apostolic succession	Acts 1:20-26; 1 Tim 4:14	✗ Rejected	✓ Restored

Conclusion: Protestants ignore clear biblical practices. This is NOT Sola Scriptura—it's selective obedience based on tradition.

THE LDS SOLUTION

Living Prophets = Biblical Pattern

Amos 3:7: "The Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets"

Eph 4:11-14: Christ gave apostles and prophets "till we all come in the unity of the faith"

Question: Have we achieved unity? **No.** 33,000+ denominations prove we haven't.

Conclusion: We still need apostles and prophets.

Acts 3:21 — The Restoration

"The times of **restitution of all things**"—prophecy of restoration of apostolic authority through Joseph Smith.

Why LDS Authority Solves Everything

- **Canon Problem:** Prophets determine Scripture + receive new revelation
- **Interpretation:** Living prophets provide authoritative interpretation
- **Unity:** One prophet = doctrinal unity (not 33,000 opinions)
- **Modern Issues:** Continuing revelation addresses contemporary challenges

THE DEVASTATING QUESTIONS

For Protestants:

1. Where does the Bible teach Sola Scriptura? (It doesn't—even your scholars admit it)
2. Which books belong in the Bible? Who decided? (Church councils—not Scripture alone)
3. Why follow a canon from Jews who rejected Jesus 600-900 years after Christ?
4. How do you explain Hebrews 11:35 without 2 Maccabees?
5. If Scripture is clear, why 33,000+ denominations with opposite interpretations?

6. By what authority do you dismiss baptism for the dead, laying on of hands, etc.?
7. If you trust the Church's authority to give you the Bible, why reject its authority to interpret it?

St. Augustine's Challenge

"I would not believe in the Gospel, had not the authority of the Catholic Church already moved me."

LDS Position: A church was needed to organize the canon—but that authority was later lost through apostasy. The true church with proper priesthood authority was **restored through Joseph Smith**.