

# De-Bunking Catholic Myths –Why Don't Catholics Believe in Scripture/Bible?

## (Sola Scriptura & Sola Fide)

### Catechism of the Catholic Church:

#### Part One: Article 2 – I. The Apostolic Tradition:

75 "**Christ the Lord**, in whom the entire Revelation of the most high God is summed up, **commanded the apostles to preach the Gospel, which had been promised beforehand by the prophets**, and which he fulfilled in his own person and promulgated with his own lips. In preaching the Gospel, they were to communicate the gifts of God to all men. **This Gospel was to be the source of all saving truth and moral discipline.**"

In the apostolic preaching. . . 76 In keeping with the Lord's command, **the Gospel was handed on in two ways:**

- **orally** "by the apostles who handed on, by the spoken word of their preaching, by the example they gave, by the institutions they established, what they themselves had received - whether from the lips of Christ, from his way of life and his works, or whether they had learned it at the prompting of the Holy Spirit";

- **in writing** "by those apostles and other men associated with the apostles who, under the inspiration of the same Holy Spirit, committed the message of salvation to writing".

78 This living transmission, accomplished in the Holy Spirit, is called **Tradition**, **since it is distinct from Sacred Scripture, though closely connected to it.** Through Tradition, "the Church, in her doctrine, life and worship, perpetuates and transmits to every generation all that she herself is, all that she believes."

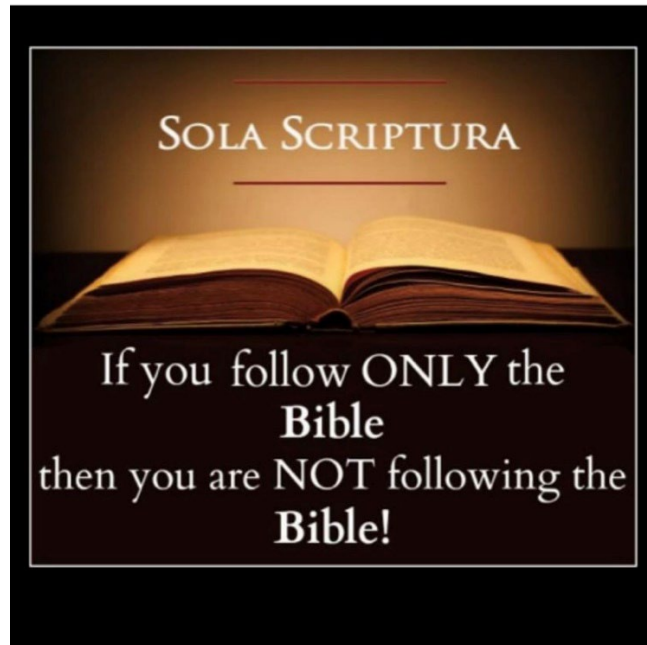
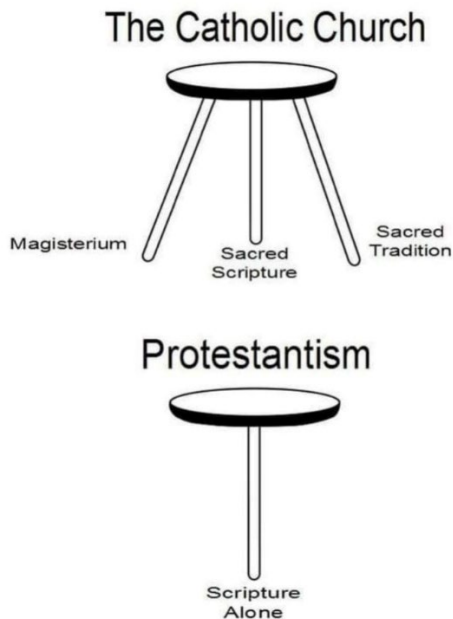
#### II. Relationship between Tradition & Sacred Scripture—One common source.

80 "**Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture**, then, are **bound closely together**, and communicate one with the other. **For both of them, flowing out from the same divine well-spring, come together in some fashion to form one thing, and move towards the same goal.**" Each of them makes present and fruitful in the Church the mystery of Christ, who promised to remain with his own "always, to the close of the age". (two distinct modes of transmission).

81 "**Sacred Scripture** is the speech of God as it is put down in writing under the breath of the Holy Spirit." <sup>42</sup>

"**And [Holy] Tradition** transmits in its entirety the Word of God which has been entrusted to the apostles by Christ the Lord and the Holy Spirit. It transmits it to the successors of the apostles so that, enlightened by the Spirit of truth, they may faithfully preserve, expound and spread it abroad by their preaching."

82 As a result **the Church**, to whom the transmission and interpretation of Revelation is entrusted, "does not derive her certainty about all revealed truths from the holy Scriptures alone. **Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honoured with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence.**"



### What are the Sola's?

- a. **Sola Scriptura** – *Scripture alone* – Everything that the Scriptures address are to be used as the final word on that topic. All things that we learn from other sources must be compared to Scripture, and if they do not match Scripture or *if they contradict Scripture, then we are not to affirm them*.
- b. **Solus Christus** – *Christ alone* – Christ Jesus is the only means of salvation *and the only mediator*.
- c. **Sola Gratia** – *Grace alone* – This means that we are *saved* from our sins and damnation by the unmerited grace of God alone *without any of our works*.
- d. **Sola Fide** – *Faith alone* – This means that we are *saved from our sins by faith alone in Christ, and not by faith and anything we do*, whether it be baptism, church membership, good works, sincerity, or anything else.
- e. **Soli Deo Gloria** – *the Glory of God alone* – This means that *God alone is the one who is to receive all the glory*. We are to live for Him and glorify Him.

### Differences in Catholics/Protestants viewpoint:

**1) Catholic teaching says certain works (rituals or sacraments are needed to be saved). Protestants say sincere faith is all that is needed.**

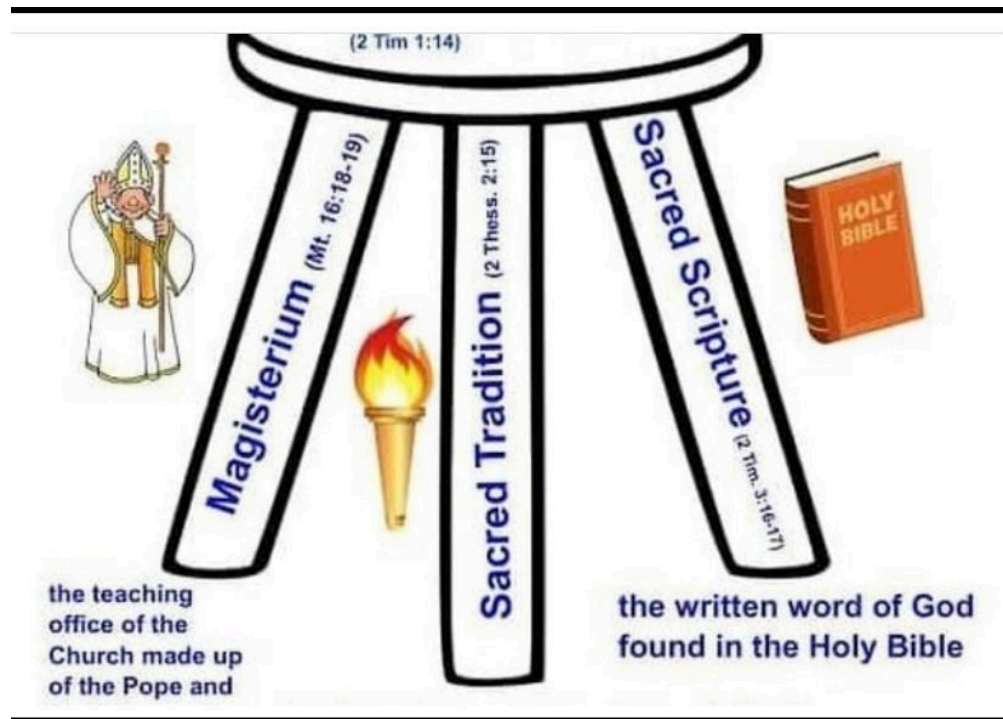
- ✓ Difference 1: Faith Is Not Enough “What good is it my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?...You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone...faith without deeds is dead.” (Jas. 2:14-26).

**2) Catholic doctrine speaks little or not at all about assurance of salvation. Protestants teach that we can be sure that we are saved.**

- ✓ Difference 2: Salvation Is A Process. Catholics emphasize a process of salvation while Protestant teaching more often refers to salvation as an event in time when we were forgiven (justification) followed by the process of becoming holy (sanctification).

3) Catholic leaders say that other things **may** be required to be saved such as membership in their churches, good works, priests and gifts and prayers for the dead. Protestants do not believe these are required to be saved.

- ✓ Difference 3: No Assurance Of Salvation “Protestants, by contrast, emphasize that since their salvation rests wholly on Christ they can be sure they are going to heaven as long as they continue in repentance and faith.



## **BIBLICAL FACTS:**

### **1. Sola Scriptura Is Not Taught in the Bible**

As Catholics, we agree with Protestants that Scripture is a “standard of truth”—even the preeminent one—but not in a sense that rules out the **binding authority of authentic apostolic Tradition and the Church**. The Bible doesn’t teach that. Catholics agree that Scripture is materially sufficient. But no biblical passage teaches that Scripture is the formal authority or rule of faith in isolation or separate from the Church and Tradition.

### **2. The “Word of God” Refers to Oral Teaching Also**

“**Word**” in Holy Scripture often refers to a **proclaimed, oral teaching of prophets or apostles**. What the prophets spoke was the word of God regardless of whether or not their statements were recorded later or not. For example, we read in Jeremiah: “For twenty-three years . . . the word of the Lord has come to me, and I have spoken to you again and again . . . ‘But you did not listen to me,’ declares the Lord. . . . Therefore the Lord Almighty says this: ‘Because you have not listened to my words. . . .’” (Jeremiah 25:3, 7-8). This was the word of God even though some of it was not recorded in writing. It had equal authority and also considered “inspired”. This was true also of apostolic preaching. When the phrases “**word of God**” or “**word of the Lord**” appear in Acts and the epistles (letters), **they almost always refer to oral preaching, not to Scripture**.

For example: “When you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God” (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

If we compare this passage with another, written to the same church, Paul appears to regard oral teaching and the word of God as synonymous: “Keep away from any brother who is living in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us” (2 Thessalonians 3:6).

### **3. Tradition Is Not a Dirty Word**

Protestants often quote the verses in the Bible where corrupt traditions of men are condemned (e.g., Matthew 15:2–6; Mark 7:8–13; Corinthians 2:8). Of course, Catholics also agree with this but we also believe it’s not the whole truth. **True, apostolic Tradition also is “inspired” works.** This Tradition is in total harmony with and consistent with Scripture.

### **4. Jesus and Paul Accepted Non-Biblical Oral and Written Traditions**

Protestants defending *sola scriptura* will claim that Jesus and Paul accepted the authority of the Old Testament. This is true, **but they also appealed to other authority outside of written revelation.** For example:

- 1) The reference to “He shall be called a Nazarene” cannot be found in the Old Testament, yet it was “spoken by the prophets” (Matthew 2:23). Therefore, this prophecy, which is considered to be “God’s word,” **was passed down orally rather than through Scripture.**
- 2) In Matthew 23:2–3, Jesus teaches that the scribes and Pharisees have a legitimate, binding authority based “on Moses’ seat,” but this phrase or idea cannot be found anywhere in the Old Testament. It is found in the (originally oral) **Mishnah**, which teaches a sort of **“teaching succession” from Moses on down.**
- 3) In 1 Corinthians 10:4, Paul refers to a rock that **“followed”** the Jews through the Sinai wilderness. The Old Testament says nothing about such an miraculous movement. **But rabbinic tradition does.**
- 4) “As Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses” (2 Timothy 3:8). These two men cannot be found in the related Old Testament passage (Ex. 7:8ff.) or anywhere else in the Old Testament.

### **5. The Apostles Exercised Authority at the Council of Jerusalem**

In the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15:6–30), we see Peter and James speaking with authority. This Council makes an authoritative pronouncement (citing the Holy Spirit) that was binding on all Christians: “For it has seemed good to the **Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled and from unchastity**” (Acts 15:28–29).

In the next chapter, we read that Paul, Timothy, and Silas were traveling around “through the cities,” and Scripture says that **“they delivered to them for observance the decisions which had been reached by the apostles and elders who were at Jerusalem”** (Acts 16:4).

### **6. Pharisees, Sadducees, and Oral, Extra Biblical Tradition**

Christianity was derived in many ways from the Pharisees’ tradition of Judaism. The Sadducees, however, rejected the future resurrection of the soul, the afterlife, rewards and retribution, demons and angels. **The Sadducees also rejected all authoritative oral teaching and essentially believed in *sola scriptura*.** They were the **theological liberals** of that time. Christian Pharisees are referred to in Acts 15:5 and Philippians 3:5, **but the Bible never mentions Christian Sadducees.** The Pharisees, despite their corruptions and excesses, were the



mainstream Jewish tradition, and both Jesus and Paul acknowledge this. **So neither the orthodox Old Testament Jews nor the early Church was guided by the principle of sola scriptura.**

## **7. Old Testament Jews Did Not Believe in Sola Scriptura**

To give two examples from the Old Testament itself:

- 1) Ezra, a priest and scribe, studied the Jewish law and taught it to Israel, and his authority was binding under pain of imprisonment, banishment, loss of goods, and even death (cf. Ezra 7:26).
- 2) In Nehemiah 8:3, Ezra reads the Law of Moses to the people in Jerusalem. In verse 7 we find thirteen Levites who assisted Ezra and helped the people to understand the law. Much earlier, we find Levites exercising the same function (cf. 2 Chr. 17:8–9).

**So the people did indeed understand the law** (cf. Neh. 8:8, 12), **but not without much assistance—not merely upon hearing**. Likewise, **the Bible is not altogether clear in and of itself but requires the aid of teachers who are more familiar with biblical styles and Hebrew idiom, background, context, cross-reference, original languages, etc.** **The Old Testament, then, teaches about a binding Tradition and need for authoritative interpreters, as does the New Testament** (cf. Mark 4:33–34; Acts 8:30–31; 2 Peter 1:20; 3:16).

## **8. Paul Assumes That His Passed-Down Tradition Is Infallible and Binding**

If Paul wasn't assuming that, he would have been commanding his followers to adhere to a mistaken doctrine. He writes: "If any one refuses to obey what we say in this letter, note that man, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed" (2 Thessalonians 3:14). "Take note of those who create dissensions and difficulties, in opposition to the doctrine which you have been taught; avoid them" (Romans 16:17).

It is antecedently unreasonable to suppose that a book so complex, so systematic, in parts so obscure, the outcome of so many minds, times, and places, should be given us from above without the safeguard of some authority; as if it could possibly, from the nature of the case, interpret itself. Its inspiration does but guarantee its truth, not its interpretation.

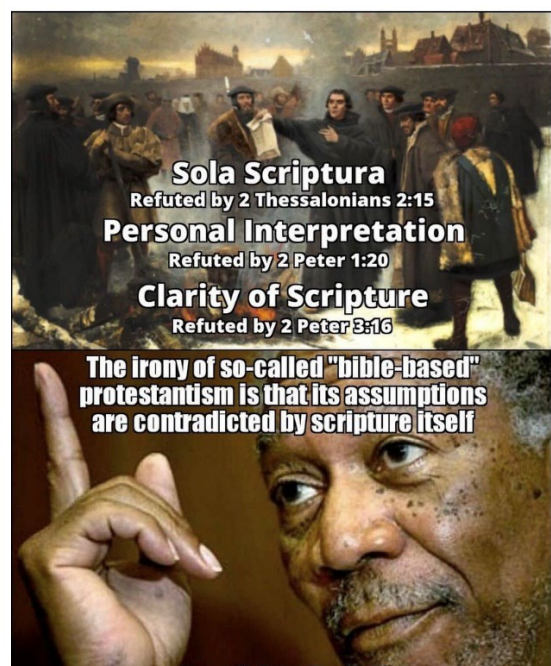
Cardinal John Henry Newman

Catholics are blamed for following late, man made, non-Biblical doctrines. But Sola Scriptura is a late, man made, non Biblical doctrine and the whole edifice of Protestantism is built on it.

Fr. Dwight Longenecker

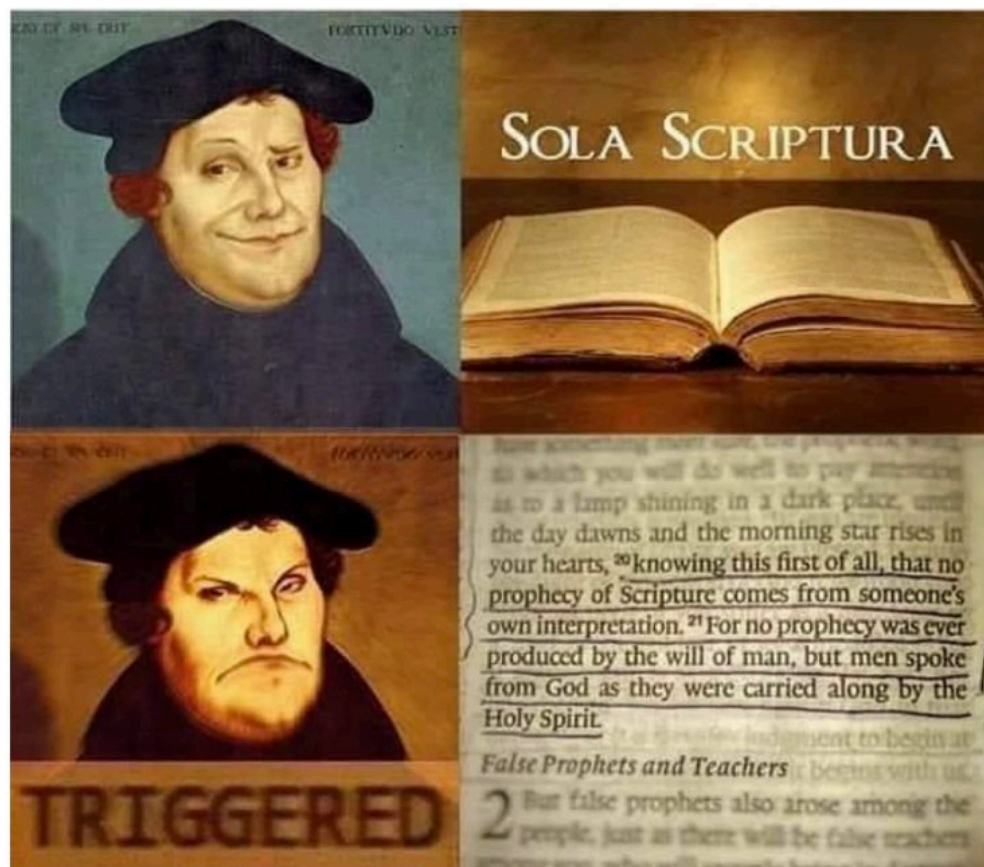
"Isn't this ironic? We insist that Christians can believe only what the Bible teaches. But the Bible doesn't teach that it is our only authority!" I asked another theologian, "What for you is the pillar and foundation of truth?" He said, "The Bible of course!" Then why does the Bible say in 1 Timothy 3:15 that the Church is the pillar and foundation of truth?"

Dr. Scott Hahn



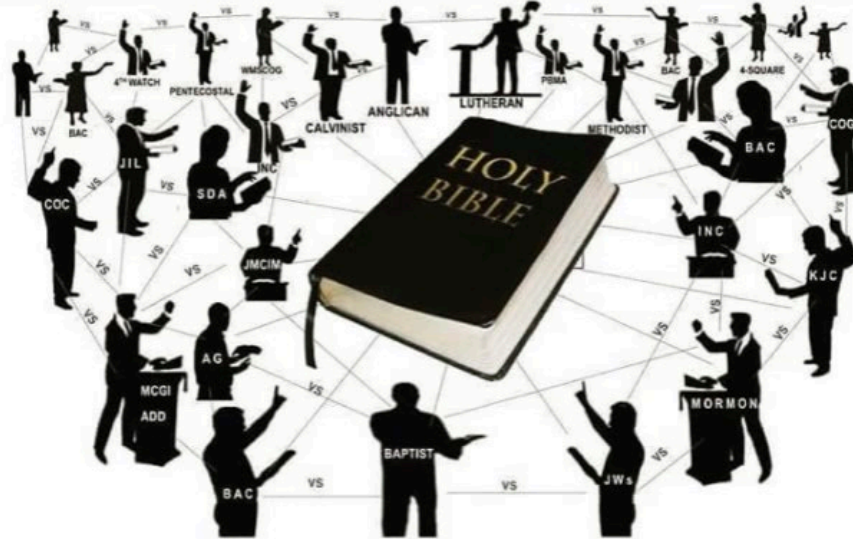
Sola Scriptura and Sola Fide, protestant claims that each man alone may interpret Scripture and practice faith by himself, isn't even in the Bible. Remember, it was the Catholic Church that assembled the Bible in 393. These claims go against St. Paul, St. John and even Jesus himself. Early Christians taught the Old and New Testaments by mouth, in unwritten form, until at least 42 A.D., when the first of the Gospels (Mark and Matthew) were written. It's believed that St. Paul started writing his epistles (letters) 10 years later. And the collection of Scripture we now know as the Bible did not officially exist until 393, after the Catholic Church met at the Synod of Hippo and affirmed the complete list of 72 books.

There can be no differentiation in the truthful interpretation of the Scriptures within the Bible because there is only one truth. **John 14:6** – Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me,” **NOT** 40,000 variations of the half-truths and falsehood. Although every Word of God is flawless and unerring (Proverbs 30:5), every human interpretation of Scripture is not. To guard against human error, the Catholic Church relies on the Magisterium, and both the written and unwritten Traditions of Christ.





MORE THAN 40,000 PROTESTANT SECTS (e.g. INC, ADD, BAC, SDA, MORMON, JWS, etc.) ALL BELIEVE THAT THE BIBLE IS THE ONLY AND SINGLE TRUTH OF GOD, AND YET THEY ALL CONTRADICT EACH OTHER WITH THAT VERY SAME BIBLE.



SO HOW CAN A SINGLE TRUTH WITHIN THAT ONE BIBLE CREATE THOUSANDS OF DIFFERENT OPPOSING AND CONTRADICTING DOCTRINES? COULD IT BE THAT MAN PERSONALLY INTERPRETS THE BIBLE AND THEN CREATE HIS OWN NEW "TRUTHS"???

**Just Because....**

### Stop using Anti-Catholic language

Instead of:	Say:
Catholics worship Mary	I don't understand Catholic theology
Catholics worship statues	I don't understand Catholic theology
Catholicism contradicts the Bible	I don't understand Catholic theology
Catholics think the Pope is perfect	I don't understand Catholic theology
Catholics believe in earned salvation	I don't understand Catholic theology

[fb.com/DaPacemDomine77](https://fb.com/DaPacemDomine77)

Online Anti-Catholics: "The Catholic Church is apostate and the whore of Babylon, and the Pope is the Antichrist!"

Me:

