

5 Basic Building Blocks of the Christian Faith

1. SCRIPTURE ALONE has authority in my life
2. Saved By GRACE ALONE thru FAITH ALONE
3. Saved By CHRIST ALONE
4. Saved for God's GLORY ALONE

Day 1: Scripture Alone

The first building block Christians need to submit to is the idea that God's Word alone has authority in my life. That means the Bible is our supreme authority on all spiritual matters.

It is not a claim that all truth of every kind is found in Scripture. The most ardent defender of *Scripture alone* will concede, for example, that Scripture has little or nothing to say about DNA structures, microbiology, the rules of Chinese grammar, or rocket science. This or that "scientific truth," for example, may or may not be actually true, whether or not it can be supported by Scripture—but Scripture is a "more sure Word," standing above all other truth in its authority and certainty. It is "more sure," according to the apostle Peter, than the data we gather firsthand through our senses (2 Peter 1:19).

Therefore, Scripture is the highest and supreme authority on any matter on which it speaks.

But there are many important questions on which Scripture is silent. *Scripture alone* makes no claim to the contrary. Nor does *this teaching* claim that everything Jesus or the apostles ever taught is preserved in Scripture.

It only means that everything necessary, everything binding on our consciences, and **everything God requires of us** is given to us in Scripture (2 Peter 1:3).

Furthermore, **we are forbidden to add to or take away from Scripture** (cf. Deut. 4:2; 12:32; Rev. 22:18-19). To add to it is to lay on people a burden that God Himself does not intend for them to bear (cf. Matt. 23:4).

Scripture is therefore the perfect and only standard of spiritual truth, revealing infallibly all that we must believe in order to be saved and all that we must do in order to glorify God. That—no more, no less—is what *Scripture Alone* means.

The Bible is:

- God-breathed-- Inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- Authoritative and final-- the bible is the only source of God's word to us.
- Inerrant—Trustworthy and true, with no mistakes.
- Sufficient—The Bible is enough. It teaches us everything we need to know about God, and His plan for salvation.
- Clear—We can understand it.
- Necessary—We need it to learn who God is, how to be saved, and how to live.
- The Standard—Tells Christians how to live for Jesus.

Object lesson:

Glass

Red Bull

Quick Chocolate Milk- whole milk not nonfat is best

Pour chocolate milk into big glass pitcher—That represents us. You and I are like that chocolate milk.

Red Bull-That represents God's word. The Bible has power and energy.

Watch what happens as we add God's word to your life.

Foam on top, solid in middle, liquid on bottom.

When you take God's word and add it to your life it changes you! Separates you.

God's word separates us from sin

Separates us from the world.

Need to repent, ask for forgiveness.

God's word shows us how we as Christians are to live and the things we should not do. The world will tell you that it knows better, but as Christians we know God's word ALONE is the authority in our lives. And when we add God's word to our lives, we will begin to separate ourselves from sin and things that the Bible tells us are wrong.

Questions:

1. Who gave you your first Bible? (Share your story with the group)
2. Why should Christians study the Bible? (It's God's word, and teaches how to be saved and how to live for Jesus, as well as the things not to do)
3. What if you are doing something that the Bible says you should not do? (stop doing it or don't do it again. The Bible calls this repentance-- turning from our sin and turning to God.)
4. What if someone teaches you to do something that goes against the Bible? (Don't buy it. Test what people teach you based on what the scriptures say. To do this well, you will need to be reading your Bible often).
5. What is a quiet time? (this is a time you set aside to read your Bible and talk to God. S.O.A.P. just like you should was with soap everyday, you should use S.O.A.P. everyday, too. SOAP is an easy way to remember to do you quiet time: Scripture Observation Application Prayer. First you read, then you take time to talk to god about what you noticed. Then you talk to God about what he would have you do or change in your life based on what you read. Finally, you close in prayer asking God to help you use what you read to live for His Glory.)

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Day 2: Saved by Grace ALONE thru Faith ALONE

“By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (vv. 8–9).

- Ephesians 2:8-10

Faith object lesson: Stepping thru a piece of paper

Who here has faith that I can step thru this paper? Not over it, or under it. Not around it or behind it. Who has faith that I can step THRU this sheet of paper?

According to Hebrews 11:1

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

So if I *assure* you that I can go THRU this paper... will you HOPE its true even tho you cannot see it... yet. Who will dare to have faith in me?

(Be sure to practice this, some of us 2XL guys may have difficulty squeezing thru. If that's the case, you can get a volunteer and change the faith challenge to “who has faith that I can get a kid thru the sheet of paper?”

What to do:

1. Fold a piece of paper in half like a book. Put the paper on the table with folded side closest to you.
2. Cut into the folded side, about 1cm from the left hand edge, and start cutting straight towards the far side of the paper. Stop cutting about 1cm before the opposite edge, so you don't cut all the way across the paper.



The next cut comes from the opposite side of the paper.

3. Turn the paper around so the fold is away from you. Cut in around 1cm from the last cut, and stop about 1cm before you get to the folded side.
4. Alternate between cutting from the folded side, and the side opposite. Keep your cuts 1cm apart, and always stop cutting 1cm before you get to the far side of the paper. When you have finished, you should have a zig-zag of paper.
5. Look along the folded side of the paper. You should have a series of loops of paper. Cut along the fold of each of the loops EXCEPT the first loop and the last loop. Leave these intact.



Don't cut the first or last loops!

6. Carefully pull the paper apart, being careful not to tear it. You should have a large loop. Now try to fit yourself through the loop!
7. If you can't fit through the loop, try making another one with either: A larger piece of paper, or putting the cuts closer together (try 5 mm apart, and stopping 5mm from the far side)

If you are still having trouble, [print out our template](#) ([available in pdf](#) or [Word document](#)) and simply cut along all the black lines.



Open up the loop, and you'll find it easy to fit through.

What's happening?

If you look at the cuts you've made in the paper, it looks like a maze. But you've actually turned the sheet of paper into a really long loop that should be long enough to go all the way around you.

Faith ALONE means to completely trust in Jesus. We are saved from our sins only thru faith in Jesus Christ.

Faith alone answers the question: How can a sinful human being be set right before the holy God? Our Creator is perfectly righteous and only those with clean hands and pure hearts may stand in His holy place (Ps. 24:3-4), but we are polluted by sin and something must change if we are to live in his presence forever, not under eternal condemnation.

Justification also affirms the necessity of faith, grace, and Christ, but it adds the important term *alone*. No one keeps God's law perfectly and our good works are "filthy rags" (Isa. 64:6, KJV); therefore, our works can in no way be the ground of our acceptance before God. Only the merit of Christ can set us right with God, and we access this merit by trusting in Christ alone. God does not wait for us to become righteous before He justifies us,

otherwise we would never be justified. While still sinners He counts us as righteous in His sight through faith apart from any good we do.

That means we all have sinned and fallen short of God's glory (Romans 3:23). The penalty for sins is death (Rom 6:23). That means we're all sentenced to die for our crimes (sin). But Jesus, who is fully God and fully man, died for the sins of his believers. 1Peter2:24 says "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed."

Today what we must remember is that good works do not set us right before God, although they do prove that He has declared us righteous in Christ (James 2:14–26). If we have to trust in our works at all, even if only a little bit, we can never be assured of our justification. None of us can do enough good to stand in God's presence.

We CANNOT be saved by:

- Our own goodness—we all sin.
- Our own good works—we cannot earn forgiveness.
- Knowing the truth—James 2:19 says even demons believe there is one God.
- By accident—Those who love Jesus know it.
- Thru your parents or grandparents—God judges everyone by their own faith.
- Religious rituals—doing right things at the right time doesn't save us.

Salvation is a free gift to all who believe in Jesus and repent of their sins.

That free gift is called GRACE. We are saved BY GRACE THRU FAITH.

Answers found in: Ephesian 2:1-10

1. How can a person trust in God? By Grace thru faith. ABC-Admit you are a sinner, Believe in Jesus, Commit your life to following Him. 2:8
2. Once saved how are we to live? 2:10
3. What can you do to earn salvation? 2:8-9

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Day 3: Christ ALONE

“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.”

- John 3:36

Without Christ, we can do nothing; in Him, we can do all things (John 15:5; Phil. 4:13). Christ alone can bring salvation. Union with Christ is the only way of salvation. God's people don't see Christ as one of many gods. He stands alone as the one Savior of men's souls, the one way by which we are made right with God.

What makes Jesus so special:

Jesus Christ, and Christ alone, is able to be mediator between God and man. The Bible makes it clear that Jesus paid for sin completely. He credits his people with his own righteousness so we can be reunited with God. There's nothing left to earn. It's all accomplished by Christ Alone. He is able because he is fully God and fully man. 100% God and 100% man. He is the God-Man. This is called the hypostatic union. It teaches that Jesus is both fully human and fully divine, that there is no mixture or dilution of either nature, and that He is one united Person, forever.

As fully God and fully man, Jesus ALONE holds all 3 old testament offices: Prophet, Priest and King.

He is the prophet, priest and king of the church. Let us look more closely at these three offices.

Christ as Prophet:

A prophet of God is someone who reveals God, speaks for God, and communicates to people the truths that God wants them to know. Undoubtedly, Jesus did this when he came to do the will of the Father (Luke 22:42), to reveal the Father (Matt. 11:27), and to speak the things of the Father (John 8:28; 12:49).

Christ as Priest:

The priests were the ones in the Old Testament who offered sacrifices to God in order to cleanse of sin. Ultimately, all such priests were representations of Jesus who is the True Priest who offered himself as a sacrifice (Eph. 5:2; Heb. 9:26-27; 10:12) by which he cleanses us of our sin (1 John 1:7).

Christ as King:

A king is someone who has authority to rule and reign over a group of people. Jesus is just such a king. He is called the King of the Jews by the Magi (Matt. 2:2), and Jesus accepts that title in Matt. 27:11, "Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor questioned Him, saying, 'Are You the King of the Jews?' And Jesus said to him, 'It is as you say.'" Matt. 21:5 speaks of Jesus and says, "Behold your King is coming to you, gentle, and mounted on a donkey." Remember, Jesus is King in that he rules and judges. "And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war." (Rev. 19:11). The armies follow him (Rev. 19:14).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=opyaQWM3AAY>

play the Christ is sufficient video from youtube or do it it yourself.

1. Does baptism save us? No Christ ALONE saves us from our sins.
2. Can baptism wash away sins? No. Christ ALONE washes sin away.
3. What is baptism? Baptism signifies what God has done. Jesus came and stood on the earth, so the believer stands in the water. Jesus died and was buried, so the believer goes under the water. Jesus rose again, so the believe comes up out of the water. Baptism is the first act of obedience for the believer. Jesus was baptized, and so every believer should follow his example as a matter of obedience. Baptism is for obedience, Christ ALONE is for salvation.
4. What is hypostatic union of Christ? Jesus is 100% God & 100% man
5. What 3 offices of the old testament did Jesus fulfill? Prophet, priest, king.
6. What is the only thing that can save us from our sin? Christ ALONE.

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Day 4: To the Glory of God ALONE

"I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols."

- Isaiah 42:8

What we think and how we think about things matters. Read from the following brain teasers.

Q: I'm tall when I'm young and I'm short when I'm old. What am I?

A: A candle.

Q: In a one-storey pink house, there was a pink person, a pink cat, a pink fish, a pink computer, a pink chair, a pink table, a pink telephone, a pink shower– everything was pink! What color were the stairs?

A: There weren't any stairs, it was a one storey house.

Q: What has hands but can not clap?

A: A clock.

Q: What is at the end of a rainbow?

A: The letter W.

Q: What gets wetter and wetter the more it dries?

A: A Towel.

Q: You walk into a room with a match, a kerosene lamp, a candle, and a fireplace. Which do you light first?

A: The match.

***Each of these riddles had a question that needed answering. To get the answer you had to really think about it. I have one last question:

Q: What is the meaning of life.

Some would have you believe that the answer is unknowable. Christianity disagrees.

A: The Jesus follower says that meaning of life is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.

God's glory is the highest good and therefore is the purpose for which we were created. We were made to glorify God, to reflect His glory and proclaim it to all creation

Read: Isa. 43:6–7.

In saving His people and defeating their enemies, His glory is displayed (Ex. 14). Salvation must be through faith alone, by grace alone, and on account of Christ alone — because to attribute redemption to our efforts in any way is to rob God of His full glory. Stealing from God is a bad idea!

When we give God the glory for what we do, God counts that activity as worship (Romans 12:1-2). Isn't a cool way to look at the things we love doing! What is your favorite sport? Did you know you can play that sport in a way that God is glorified and he counts that as worship! Pretty cool to know that your favorite activity can be done in God honoring ways and that bring Him glory.

There is one thing that can never be done to honor God. Does anybody know what the Bible calls the things that dishonor God? SIN. Sin is bad choices we think, say, do, or don't do. We can never sin in a way that glorifies God. Knowing that, we should avoid sin as best as we can. Focusing on who God can help us avoid sin.

God is:

- Creator—HE made all things
- Holy—He is set apart for all things
- Sovereign—He rules all things
- Glorified—He is praised above all things
- Supreme—He is mightier than anyone or anything
- Just—He is a fair judge of all things
- Wise— HE chooses the best in every circumstance
- Omniscient--He knows all things
- Good—He is always good and he always does good
- Love—God always shares himself with others
- Worthy—God alone is worthy of praise and glory

Our lives are to be lived To the Glory of God ALONE. The sooner we begin to get this and apply it to our lives, the sooner our time on this earth will make sense. We can stop searching for meaning and begin to live in our purpose-to glorify God and enjoy him forever.

1. What should you do to the glory of God? 1 Cor 10:31
2. What is one thing you need to begin doing for the glory of God?
3. What is one thing you need to stop doing for the glory of God?
4. Is there something you can keep doing but learn to do differently so that God will be glorified in it? (for example if you cuss while playing football, you don't have to stop playing football glorify God. You need to play football without cussing. Of course if you cannot play football without cussing, then you will need to stop football (Matt 5:30).