

How can we be prepared for sonship?

Preparation with help from tutors

Preparation through entering rest

Preparation through soul transformation at different levels

Deconstruction and renewal of the mind

Intimacy with the Father is the best preparation for sonship as you can't be a son without a father
Any mindsets, doctrines, theology or beliefs that distort the nature of God as father and the relationship we have with Him as sons must be deconstructed and renewed

Beliefs that are based in old covenant thinking will create fear, duty, obligation through the need to obey the law

Law based mindsets often create barriers to intimacy because of the wrong sort of fear of God and will affect our sonship relationship

My false images of God were created by the religious systems that programmed me through their theology and doctrines

There were 9 pillars that held up this framework of programming in my mind

Those beliefs caused confirmational bias whenever I tried to interpret experiences or the Bible: they were my assumptions



Evangelicalism

Sola Scriptura

Greek thought

Hebrew thought

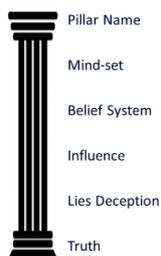
Augustinianism

Protestantism

Scientific rationalism

Cultural relativism

Humanism



Deconstructing the mind will involve religious deprogramming and that will challenge our theology and doctrines

Face to face encounters that unveil the true nature of God will inevitably create cognitive dissonance

Discovering the true reality of who God is by experience will change us

As God began the deconstruction process it inevitably changed how I saw the Bible and its role in my life

As the pillars of evangelicalism and *sola scriptura* were removed so did my reliance on the English translations of the Bible and the view that the Bible was the word of God

I discovered that God does not need a book to mediate between Himself and man. Jesus is the only mediator between God and man

No mediatorial religious coverings are necessary, including priests or rabbis

God does not want to primarily speak to us through the Bible, He wants a face to face relationship

Ask yourselves the following questions.

What do I use the Bible for?

Is the Bible what I use for the wisdom to make decisions?

Do I use the Bible as a plumb line to decide truth and error?

Do I expect God to speak to me primarily through the Bible?

When the Protestantism, Greek and Hebrew thinking pillars were removed, my understanding of the Bible's purpose, inspiration, inerrancy and infallibility were deconstructed

Our understanding of the Bible's purpose will affect our use and interpretation of it

I believe that God does inspire writings and speech but they are delivered through fallible people

The writings that God inspired in their original form and language were accurately recorded but are not all the truth

The Bible includes many opinions of men; some are false and some lies

Jer 8:8 How can you say, 'We are wise, and the law of the Lord is with us'? but behold, the lying pen of the scribes has made it into a lie.

What was changed or wrongly written?

What could be lies or deceptions that we currently believe to be true?

Torah, law, rabbinical tradition?

If that is true of the Hebrew writings we call the Old Testament, and God allowed it, then what about what we call the New Testament

How many alterations were made by the scribes who translated it?

Were they mistakes or deliberate alterations to explain or deceive?

As we do not have any original New Testament manuscripts or copies (or even copies of copies) how do we know what the writers actually meant?

The earliest complete copy is the Codex Sinaiticus dated around the 4th century AD

The Codex Sinaiticus is a 4th century handwritten parchment manuscript containing the Septuagint and New Testament in Greek. Throughout the text are thousands of annotations and corrections, added from the codex's drafting in the 4th century to as late as the 12th century

The Greek Septuagint in the Codex includes books not found in the Hebrew Bible and regarded in the Protestant tradition as apocryphal, such as 2 Esdras, Tobit, Judith, 1 & 4 Maccabees, Wisdom and Sirach.

Appended to the New Testament are the Epistle of Barnabas and 'The Shepherd' of Hermas.

The transcription shows just how common these corrections are.

They range in date from those made by the original scribes in the fourth century to ones made in the twelfth century. They range from the alteration of a single letter to the insertion of whole sentences.

When we see the phrases 'the word of God' or 'scripture' written, or hear it mentioned, are we conditioned into thinking it refers to our current version of the Bible?

Actually it does not, as it is mostly referring to the personal interactive conversations that God had with people

Sometimes the phrase in OT may refer to the Torah or a prophet's written words

Sometimes it is referring to spoken words that God said to people

In the NT the phrase is primarily referring to the Living Word - Jesus

Context tells us what it means - but remember there was no official Bible until 387AD, so it could not mean that

Psa 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Debar = speech or spoken word

Matt 4:4 "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God'": some may have been recorded

It is not written that we should live by the written words of God alone

Who decided what was included in the Bible and what were their motives?

Who agreed that the canon of scripture was to be completed?

Did God inspire people to form a closed canon of scripture?

Why are some books (apocryphal) in some Bibles but not others?

Constantine issued a decree in 325 AD commanding all presbyters and their subordinates. They were instructed to bring with them the testimonies they orated 'bound in leather' for protection during the long journey, and surrender them to Constantine upon arrival in Nicaea

Their writings totalled 'in all, two thousand two hundred and thirty-one scrolls together with a record of the doctrines orated by them' (Life of Constantine)

He then ordered all earlier presbyterial manuscripts and the records of the council burnt.

With his instructions fulfilled of merging everything together, Constantine then decreed that the New Testimonies would thereafter be called the "word of the Roman Saviour God" and official to all presbyters sermonising in the Roman Empire. (Life of Constantine, vol. iii, p. 29)

Those collected writings that Constantine formed were what they used in the Council of Carthage in 387AD to form the canon of scripture

They included 14 apocryphal books that are now excluded from the Protestant Bibles

Primarily the letters that we now call the New Testament were written to those going through the transition from old to new covenant from either a Hebrew or Gentile background

It is the cultural context and audience that is key to knowing if it is directly speaking to us today or not

There are many principles that are relevant irrespective of the age you live in

But many of the issues that are addressed are not relevant to us today and should not be transposed e.g. idol meat, head coverings and silent women

God has continued to speak to each subsequent generation directly and through individual discipleship relationships

Each generation should have a progressively revealed set of writings of their own inspired by the Living Word of God through the Spirit of Truth

Restricting the scriptures to a completed book has limited people's expectations concerning the possibility of God speaking to them and narrowed the way that He can speak to them

'My sheep hear My voice' is not restricted to the first century AD

The audience was different for each letter or gospel written and that must be taken into consideration when reading or trying to understand it

e.g. Matthew's gospel had a clear Hebrew audience and John's gospel was more directed towards the disciples of Jesus then and now

John 16:12 "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come."

John 16:14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you."

This truth is the key to progressive revelation

Does that mean the Bible has no value for us today?

Of course not; we can discover many things on our journey through the Bible but it is not the primary way God wants to speak to us on a daily basis

God never intended us to know Him through books but by encounters

God never said "Believe by reading a book". No one in the Bible itself met God by reading a book.

You can only really know God by experience, just as the stories in the Bible itself testify.

Is the Bible the only source of revelation (written or otherwise) that God uses today?

Is God continuing to give progressive revelation by speaking to us today because we are now able to bear it?

Is the Bible a manual for living or an introduction to a living, loving relationship with Jesus the living word of God?

Is everything recorded in the Bible inspired by God?

Is all of the Bible inerrant and infallible as we have been told?

Challenging the sacred cow of the inerrancy and infallibility of the Bible will probably cause offence to many

I do not intend to offend but I do want to challenge our view of the Bible as the 'word of God' because Jesus is the true Word who became flesh and is God

2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

The translators can subtly change the emphasis and meaning by adding, changing or removing some words

2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture (writings) is inspired by God and profitable for (with pros face to face) teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

2 Tim 3:16 every writing God-breathed, and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for setting aright, for instruction that [is] in righteousness, YLT

What it actually says is every writing that God inspires or breathes is useful

What it does not say is everything we think as scripture is God-inspired

That includes the Bible and any other "holy books"

They may contain some truth but only that truth is inspired, not everything

How do we tell what is or what is not inspired in scriptures or writings?

John 16:12 "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; ... 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you."

2 Timothy was written approx. in AD 63-65, long before the Canon of scripture was agreed by bishops in Carthage in AD 397

What were the scriptures or writings that it refers to?

The old testament only, or other writings that God inspired?

What 2 Tim 3:16 does not say is that the Bible or all scripture or writings are inerrant, infallible and perfect

Does it mean that God inspired people to write or that all that they wrote is inspired?

Being inspired to write does not mean dictated in perfect detail

Only Jesus is the actual Word of God; the Bible is a library of books that point us to a person: Jesus the living Word

2 Tim 3:16 says that God-inspired writings are useful, beneficial or profitable but not infallible or inerrant

Does that mean that all scriptures from all religions are the truth?

Of course not; but Jesus may have inspired some truth in them to reveal the way to the Truth, Jesus Himself

Regardless, a relationship with the person of Jesus is the only way to the Father

So many of my beliefs were based around the Bible and its interpretation

Being brought up in the Bible Christian Methodist Church and then the Brethren assembly the major influence was evangelicalism

Usually traced back to 1738 with various streams contributing to its foundation

Methodists, Moravians, Lutherans etc.

Evangelicalism is a Protestant movement embraced within a variety of Christian denominations, based on the idea that religious salvation can be achieved through adherence to the word of God as delivered through the Bible.

Evangelical Christians believe in the Bible as God's inspired word to humankind, perfect in truth in the original text. It is the "final authority in all matters of doctrine and faith - above all human authority"

The Bible has been venerated by some to such an extent as to become equal with the person of God

Evangelicalism teaches that the Bible does not merely contain the word of God, but every word of it is the word of God.

Scripture, regarded as the word of God, carries the full authority of God in evangelicalism: every single statement of the Bible calls for instant, unqualified and unrestricted acceptance.

The Bible is not actually the word of God or God's word; it is a library of books written by various people

The Bible does contain some words that God spoke and some He inspired

The Bible contains some words attributed to God that He didn't speak

Jesus is the only living Word of God

Sola scriptura (Latin: by scripture alone) is a theological doctrine held by Christian denominations that the Christian scriptures are the sole infallible rule of faith and practice.

Ironically, where is that in the Bible?

It is not there because *sola scriptura* is a man-made doctrine

Church councils, preachers, Bible commentators, private revelation, or even a message allegedly from an angel or an apostle are not an original authority alongside the Bible in the doctrine of *sola scriptura*

It is only the Bible that we can trust as the truth. - Is that actually true? No

Some evangelical and Baptist denominations state the doctrine of *sola scriptura* more strongly: scripture is self-authenticating, clear to the rational reader, its own interpreter ("Scripture interprets Scripture"), and sufficient of itself to be the final authority of Christian doctrine.

By contrast, today Anglicanism and Methodism, also considered forms of Protestantism, uphold the doctrine of *prima scriptura*, with scripture being illumined by tradition, reason, and in Methodism, experience as well

But the Bible is still the primary source of truth rather than Jesus the Truth

Some *sola scriptura* assumptions:

Every doctrine of the Bible is the teaching of God and therefore requires full agreement.
Every promise of the Bible calls for unshakable trust in its fulfilment
Every command of the Bible is the directive of God Himself and therefore demands willing observance.

The primary Catholic argument against *sola scriptura* is that the Bible does not explicitly teach *sola scriptura*.

Catholics argue that the Bible nowhere states that it is the only authoritative guide for faith and practice.

Evangelical response to this Catholic thought:

While this is true, they fail to recognize a crucially important issue. We know that the Bible is the word of God. The Bible declares itself to be God-breathed, inerrant, and authoritative. – actually it does not

Sola scriptura is not as much of an argument against tradition as it is an argument against unbiblical, extra-biblical and/or anti-biblical doctrines as seen from a protestant or evangelical perspective
Is God and our experience of God to be limited to only what the Bible speaks of? - No

The only way to know for sure what God expects of us is to stay true to what we know He has revealed - the Bible! - not true

We can know, beyond the shadow of any doubt, that scripture is true, authoritative, and reliable.
Can we?

Is that really true? Is the source of truth only to be found in a book? No

Where does a personal relationship with the Truth fit in?

Has God stopped speaking? No

Are God's words complete? No

Does God's speaking directly to you today carry as much authority as what we call the Bible? Yes

Is revelation progressive or fixed?

Is it possible that God never intended to limit revelation of who He is to the books of the Old and New Testaments?

Did God intend the Bible to "close" or is it possible that revelation today can add to an insight in scripture?

The Mirror and the Passion Bible versions are inspired to restore relationship in love and are an expression of love's light that has My grace at its centre but don't let them become another substitute for true relationship.

Son, you have seen how easy it is to build an idol out of experience, to lean to your own understanding and create another belief system out of the mystery of subjective experience that becomes the basis your own objective DIY-LAW based system.

Everything is designed to come from a day to day continuous face to face relationship but nothing of eternal value will come from leaning to our own understanding.

New revelation of an infinite God is possible every day

Ensure that 'engaging God' is what you are inspiring, not engaging a programme or another set of law based principles that becomes another substitute for intimate relationship with Me

Son, My heart for all My children is for them to know the true reality of who they are as sons of the living God and heirs of creation.

I desire that each will know their true identity within My name and their true authority positioned within the tree of life.

I would encourage you to ask the living Word of God, Jesus, to give you a true revelation of Himself as the truth and deconstruct any pillars of *sola scriptura* from your mind

Invite the truth, Jesus, to deconstruct any lies you believe about the Bible, God and yourself

