

The Supremacy of Scripture

1 Thessalonians 2:1–13

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Introduction

- Reasons for the Protestant Reformation
- The Reformation's characteristics
- Four Reformation questions:
 1. How must a person be saved?
 2. Where does spiritual authority reside?
 3. What is the church?
 4. What is the essence of Christian living?

I. Their Circumstances: Opposed by Man (vv. 1–2)

- A. God's Word will not fail, because it has significant content and power — it bears His authority.
- B. God enabled the apostles to speak His Word boldly — they speak with God's authority.

II. Their Calling: Approved by God (vv. 3–4)

- A. Sound exposition of God's Word has nothing to do with "error, impurity, or deceit" (v. 3).
- B. The exposition of Scripture that is "approved by God" has nothing to do with pleasing men — it has everything to do with pleasing God (v. 4).

III. Their Conduct: Apostles of Christ (vv. 5–12)

- A. No flattering words, no "pretext of greed" — the apostles preached with God as their witness (v. 5).
- B. No seeking human glory, no wielding of ecclesiastical authority — man's authority is not God's authority (v. 6).
- C. Their ministry was a labor of gentle love (vv. 7–9).

- D.** The apostles lived the kind of life they encouraged all believers to live — divine authority commands everyone to obey His Word (vv. 10–12).

IV. Their Confirmation: Accepted as God’s Spokesmen (v. 13)

- A.** The Word of God is not ultimately the word of humans; therefore, it possesses God’s authority.
- B.** His Word does the work in the human heart that God has sent it to accomplish— it never returns without accomplishing His purpose (Isa 55:11).

Truths to Take Home

- The Scripture’s authority and power bestow boldness on its speakers.
- God approves those whom He entrusts with the gospel.
- The preaching and teaching of Scripture must never be mixed with error, impurity, deceit, flattery, or greed.
- The preaching and teaching of Scripture must please God, not human beings.
- The preaching and teaching of Scripture must be gentle, caring, and sacrificial.
- The ministry of the Word of God involves labor, hard toiling — work.
- Living worthy of God and His Word demands holiness, godliness, righteousness, and blamelessness — all produced by the work of Scripture in the believer’s heart.
- Living for Christ today must reflect our conviction that He will return to establish His kingdom and to display His glory.
- Those who faithfully proclaim Scripture remain constantly thankful to God for those who receive their preaching and teaching as God’s own Word.