

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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SCRIPTURE ALONE

John Edwards

It has been suggested, “The Bible does not teach the doctrine of Sola Scriptura (Scripture alone).” A reading of a few passages of Scripture should identify this as a false statement.

1) **THE SCRIPTURES ARE COMPLETE.** Paul penned, “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works*” (2 Tim. 3:16-17). If man may be perfect or complete by the Scriptures, then the Scriptures must be complete. My faith in the inspiration and all-sufficiency of the Scriptures does not rest upon any human council, but upon the testimony of God-inspired men.

2) **WE ARE WARNED AGAINST GOING BEYOND THE SCRIPTURES.** Some have tried to add various books to the Scriptures. Many have gone beyond the Scriptures in their teaching and practice. Paul warned, “*But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed*” (Gal. 1:8). John recorded, “*Whosoever transgresseth and*

abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God...” (2 Jn. 9). Heaven’s greatest blessings rest upon those who leave the Scriptures alone, while Heaven’s greatest condemnation belongs to those who are not content with Scripture alone (Rev. 22:18-19).

Since the Scriptures are complete, and we are warned against going beyond the Scriptures, our whole faith, teaching and practice must rest upon Scripture alone. How can anyone disagree?

ARE CHILDREN BORN SINNERS?

John Edwards

Many believe children are born sinners. Below are five passages showing a child is not born with sin upon his soul.

1) **ECCLESIASTES 7:29**
“*Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.*”

2) **EZEKIEL 18:20** “*The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father; neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the*

wicked shall be upon him.”

3) **EZEKIEL 28:15** “*Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou was created, till iniquity was found in thee.*”

4) **MARK 10:14-15** “*Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.*”

5) **COLOSSIANS 3:25** “*But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.*”

Children are safe in God’s sight; not sinners.

LOST BY THE SAME THINGS THAT SAVE

John Edwards

Did you know the Bible teaches that we can be lost by the same things that save us? Let me explain.

1) Faith saves (Jn. 8:24), but our faith can be overthrown (2 Tim. 2:18).

2) Grace saves (Eph. 2:8), but we can fall from it (Gal. 5:4).

3) The blood of Christ saves (Eph. 1:7), but we can count it an unholy thing (Heb. 10:29).

4) Hope saves (Rom. 8:24), but we can be moved away from the hope of the gospel (Col. 1:23).

5) Jesus saves (Mt. 1:21), but we can deny Him (2 Pet. 2:1).

6) The truth saves (Jn. 8:32), but we can err from it (Jas. 5:19).

7) The gospel of Christ saves (Rom. 1:16), but we can forget it (1 Cor. 15:1-2).

8) God saves (1 Tim. 2:3-4), but we can depart from Him (Heb. 3:12).

Men just need to quit teaching that a Christian can't sin and fall away so as to be eternally lost, for to teach such is to teach something the Bible does not teach.

THE LORD'S SUPPER OBSERVANCE: WEEKLY, MONTHLY,

QUARTERLY, OR ANNUALLY? John Edwards

How often is the Lord's supper observed where you attend? Some questions for those who do not observe it every Lord's day:

1) **HOW MANY WEEKS HAVE A FIRST DAY?** By apostolic example we learn, "*And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread...*" (Acts 20:7). Every week has a first day.

2) **HOW OFTEN DID THE JEWS KEEP THE SABBATH DAY?** When God told Israel, "*Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy*" (Ex. 20:8), how often did He expect them to keep the Sabbath day? The Jews understood this to mean every Saturday.

3) **HOW OFTEN DOES THE ROTARY MEET?** A sign says, "Rotary meets here Monday 6:15." Members of the Rotary know that every week has a Monday, and faithful Christians know that every week has a Sunday.

Can you imagine the Lord's

people coming together on the Lord's day and not communing with the Lord?

BIBLE HEARTS John Edwards

I'd like to catalogue for us some Bible hearts.

1) **WILLING HEART.** God has always expected a willing heart of His people (Ex. 35:5). "*For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not*" (2 Cor. 8:12).

2) **BELIEVING HEART.** "... *with the heart man believeth unto righteousness*" (Rom. 10:10). The Bible contains all the evidence needed to cause us to "*believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God*" (Jn. 20:30-31).

3) **OBEDIENT HEART.** The Romans "*obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin*" (Rom. 6:17-18). We are not free until we obey!

Time for a heart check-up?

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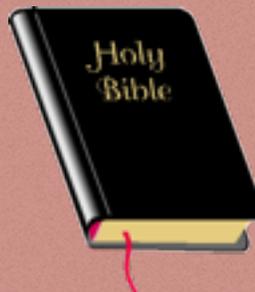
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