

# **“BIC Lead Day”**

(Tim Geddert, November 14, 2024)

## **Presentation 1**



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## **Outline:**

“Have You Understood All These Things?”

Introducing myself

Oletta Wald – Pious Slogans – Sola Scriptura

Four Strategies

Earthquake Readiness



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“Have you understood all these things?”



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“Have you understood all these things?”

“Yes.”

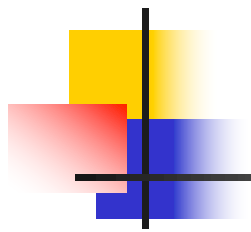


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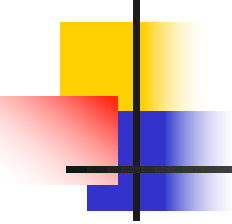
“Have you understood all these things?”

“Yes.”

“Therefore, every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

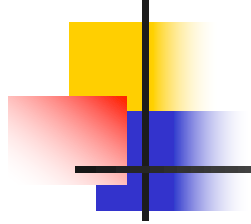


Scribes  
or  
Disciples?



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“No, Lord, we have not understood all these things, but we want to keep learning. We want you to open our minds and our hearts. Please make us humble about what we think we know. Reveal to us the treasures of your word – old ones and new ones, as we continue to be trained for the Kingdom of God. Amen.”



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# Introducing Myself





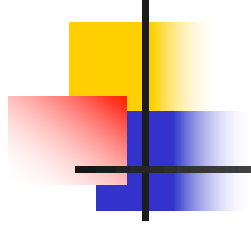
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## Three Parts:

Oletta Wald – Pious Slogans – Sola Scriptura  
(longest part)

Four Strategies (middle-sized part)

Earthquake Readiness (shortest part)



# **Oletta Wald – Pious Slogans – Sola Scriptura**



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Many sincere Christians seem convinced that to be faithful to Scripture we must keep everything as simple as possible:

- If the Bible says it, believe it.
- If the Bible commands it, do it.
- If the Bible forbids it, avoid it.
- If the Bible promises it, claim it.
- etc.

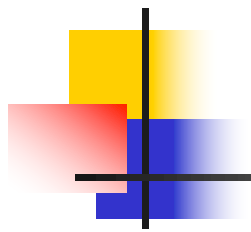


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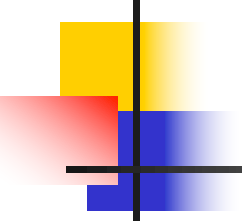
It sounds so simple:

*"If the Bible commands it, we are to obey it."*

But it would be much more honest and helpful if our principle would be: *"If the Bible records a command, we are challenged to discern whether it applies to us or not, and if it does, in what way."*

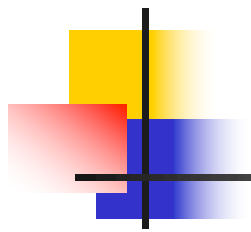


# The Promise Box



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“If the Bible records a promise, then the reader is challenged to discern who promised what to whom, and then to discern whether that promise applies to the modern reader as well, and if so, in what way.”



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# Sola Scriptura

“The Bible Alone”

(Allein das Wort)



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What does Sola Scriptura *not* mean?





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- \* The Bible interprets itself.



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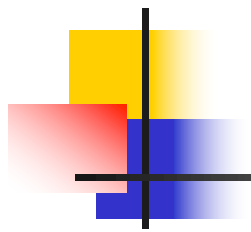
- \* The Bible interprets itself.
- \* The Bible is the only valid source of information and guidance.



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What does Sola Scriptura *not* mean?

- \* The Bible interprets itself.
- \* The Bible is the only valid source of information and guidance.
- \* Confessions of Faith and denominational guidelines should be avoided.



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What *does* Sola Scriptura mean?



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## What *does* Sola Scriptura mean?

- \* The Bible is the final court of appeal.
- \* We subject ourselves to the texts that we are interpreting.
- \* *Biblical theology* is the safest way to discern what God wants to reveal through the Scriptures

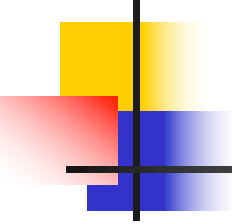


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## What *does* Sola Scriptura mean?

- \* The Bible is the final court of appeal.
- \* We subject ourselves to the texts that we are interpreting.
- \* *Biblical theology* is the safest way to discern what God wants to reveal through the Scriptures
- \* No personal conviction should ever become so sacred that we refuse to take seriously those texts that do not obviously support it.





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Finally: The safest way to free up the Scriptures to actually function as the final authority for faith and life is to apply the broadest possible base for interpreting it.



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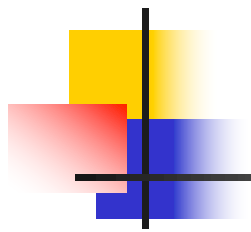
1. Don't imagine you can figure this out on your own.
2. Recognize what kind of book the Bible is.
3. Don't over-complicate things.



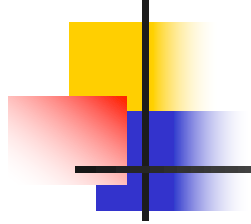
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## **Four Strategies:**

1. Don't imagine you can figure this out on your own.
2. Recognize what kind of book the Bible is.
3. Don't over-complicate things.
4. Don't over-simplify things either.



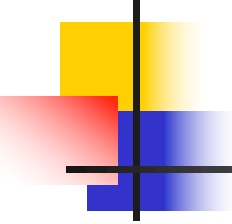
# Earthquake-Readiness



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How does the Bible “work” as our authority?

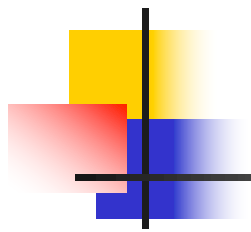
Do we just do whatever it says?



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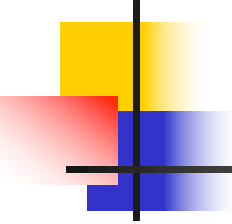
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the Ten Commandments

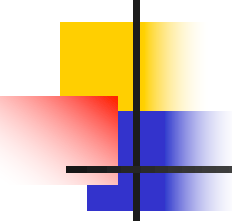


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but what about Matthew 1:14?



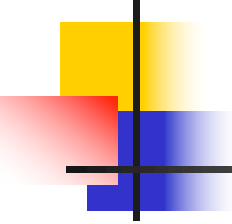
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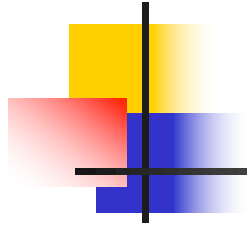
but what about Matthew 1:14?

“Zadok the father of Akim,  
Akim the father of Elihud.”



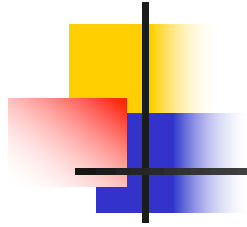
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Sometimes “the biblical viewpoint” seems wrong  
(at least from the perspective that now shapes our  
reading).



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We declare that the Scriptures are authoritative, but what we really mean is that the authority of God, the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, is exercised, among other means, through the Scriptures that bear witness to Jesus.



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## Points of conversation:

Even if we agree on “how the Bible works,” how do we actually do that?

- does the whole community work at it?
- do leaders guide the process? (how)
- or do they determine the conclusions?



# Question and Answer Time

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**Pose whatever questions you have! OR,**

**Consider these:**

1. What is the appropriate way to understand and practice “Sola Scriptura”?
2. Which of the “four strategies” do you find helpful and compelling?
3. How can we be “earthquake ready”?