

## A The foundation of faith:

### ❖ *Sola Scriptura / soli Deo gloria.*

- The reformers of the 16th century literally changed the world. But they made it clear that there was nothing special about them. They were people transformed by God. For this reason they declared: “To God alone the glory.”
- How was this transformation carried out in them? It was the reading of the Word of God that performed the miracle. What did the Bible do for them, and what can it do for us?
  - (1) It is the foundation of faith
  - (2) By believing in his promises we renew our faith and courage
  - (3) Its leaves are like the fruit of the tree of life
  - (4) Radiate joy, hope and light
  - (5) It gives us direction, certainty, strength and wisdom
  - (6) Livens our being physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually
- In those dark times, the Bible saturated their lives to the point of giving their lives to remain faithful to its teachings. And today, does it also saturate your life?

### ❖ **The Bible available to everyone.**

- Tyndale (1494-1536) set out to correct the errors of Wycliffe 's Bible (translated from Latin), making a direct translation from the original languages. He published the New Testament translated from Greek.
- Miles Coverdale continued and complemented Tyndale's work with the translation of the Old Testament from the Hebrew originals. Thus, in 1535, the first printed Bible in English was published.
- This version served as the basis for the most widely used Bible translation among English speakers: *the King James Version* , published in 1611.
- Erasmus of Rotterdam published the New Testament in Greek at that time (which served as the basis for all the translations of the reformers).
- While the English versions of the Bible were being prepared and published, other reformers also translated the Bible into their native language:
  - (1) Martin Luther: German (1534)
  - (2) Pierre Robert Olivétan : French (1535)
  - (3) Brest Bible: Polish (1563)
  - (4) Casiodoro de Reina: Spanish (1569)
  - (5) Kralice Bible: Czech (1579)
  - (6) Jonas Bretkunas: Lithuanian (1579)
  - (7) Jurij Dalmatin: Slovenian (1584)
  - (8) Giovanni Diodati: Italian (1607)
  - (9) João Ferreira de Almeida: Portuguese (1691)

### ❖ **The Bible Interpreter.**

- When Martin Luther first read the Bible in Latin, his life was transformed.
- As he flipped through its pages, he was aware that a higher power was illuminating his mind. The Gospel became alive and effective. The dark traditions faded away, and the grace of Christ arose. What power illuminated his mind?
- The Holy Spirit, the only authorized interpreter of the Bible, was the one who revealed the truths contained in it. And the same Holy Spirit is given to us so that we can understand it too! (John 14:26; 16:13).
- From that moment it was evident that there could be no harmony between the traditions taught by the official church and the truths contained in the Bible. The only rule of faith and conduct is contained in the Bible, and is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit.

## **B The foundation of salvation:**

### ❖ ***Sola gratia / sola fide / solus Christus .***

- Three fundamental truths emerge from Ephesians 2:8.
  - (1) We are saved by grace alone
  - (2) The means to achieve grace is by faith alone
  - (3) This is the gift of God, the gift of his Son: Christ alone
- Because of our sin, we are condemned to eternal death (Rom. 6:23a). However, God has provided a way to pay our debt and give us eternal life (Rom. 6:23b).
- When Martin Luther discovered that Christ was his only source of salvation, he began to preach that truth. Thousands, who had been chained by the deceptions of the enemy, were freed and transformed.
- Although salvation is free, its cost was infinite, and sufficient for all (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 8:32).

### ❖ **Grow in grace.**

- During the Middle Ages, people thought about earning their salvation (and that of their ancestors) through masses, bulls, lacerations, pilgrimages...
- All of this was distressing. It was never enough. Until they discovered the grace of Christ. From that moment on they felt truly free. Did that freedom lead them to despise the Law, or to obey it?
- John Wesley (1703-1791), one of the founders of the Methodist movement, was moved by reading Luther's introduction to Romans. His new faith led him to seek growth in grace.
- Knowing himself saved by grace did not lead him to despise the Law, but to study it more carefully, so that his life would be increasingly in harmony with the life that Christ expected of him.