



Religious Robots or True Disciples?

bdavidc · Yesterday at 11:40 AM

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Unwatch



bdavidc

Puritan Board Freshman

Yesterday at 11:40 AM



#1



... they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily **to see if these things were so.** ~ [Acts 17:11](#)

Teaching or Indoctrination? Why Most Religious Education Misses the Point. Too many people today are being trained to repeat what they've been told, **instead of being taught to open the Bible and discover truth for themselves.** That's a **serious problem.** God didn't give us His Word so we could outsource our thinking to some religious system. He gave us His Word so we could **read it, believe it, and live by it,** personally.

If a teacher truly cares about his students, he won't just hand them a creed or a church manual and say, "Here, believe this." He'll put a Bible in their hands and say, "**Search the Scriptures.**" That's exactly what the Bereans did in [Acts 17:11](#). They didn't just take Paul's word for it, even though he was an apostle. They "searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." That's the mindset every believer should have, test everything by the Word of God, not by someone's authority or tradition.

When people are taught to rely on human opinion instead of Scripture, **they end up enslaved to a system, not submitted to God**. They become parrots of a doctrine rather than disciples of Christ. The Bible warns about this. Jesus rebuked the religious leaders of His day because they “taught for doctrines the commandments of men” ([Mark 7:7](#)). Paul said plainly, “Let God be true, but every man a liar” ([Romans 3:4](#)). That means if someone’s teaching doesn’t line up with the Bible, **we throw it out**, no matter how respected they are.

We need to criticize religious education that doesn’t teach people to think for themselves **with Scripture**, but instead turns them into mindless followers of tradition or a specific creed.

Real faith isn’t built on blind obedience to man. **It’s built on the truth of God’s Word**. God never tells us to follow a man. He tells us to **follow Christ** ([John 10:27](#)). And you can’t follow Jesus if you don’t know what He said. That’s why every believer needs to study the Bible for themselves. Not with the goal of winning arguments or becoming a theologian, but with **the goal of knowing God and walking in His truth**.

Let’s stop raising up people who just inherit religion and start equipping people who actually believe the Bible because they’ve read it, wrestled with it, and submitted to it. That’s what discipleship looks like.

Not indoctrination, but only what comes from the Word of God. **Break Free from the System, Study the Word**.

Beware a lot of **seminaries today teach things that go against the Bible**. Some say the Bible has errors or is outdated, but God says all of it is true ([2 Timothy 3:16](#)). Some say you need to do good works, be baptized, or follow church rules to be saved, but the Bible says we’re saved by grace through faith, not by works ([Ephesians 2:8, 9](#)). Others say repentance just means changing your mind, not turning from sin, but the Bible says real repentance means turning to God ([Acts 3:19](#)). Some even say Jesus didn’t really rise from the dead, even though the Bible says our faith is useless if He didn’t ([1 Corinthians 15:17](#)). They also try to erase hell or say it’s not forever, but Jesus said it is ([Matthew 25:41](#)). Many teach that Genesis isn’t real history, but Jesus believed it was ([Matthew 19:4](#)). Some twist the Bible to match what culture wants instead of sticking to what God said ([Isaiah 40:8](#)). Others say everyone is God’s child, but only those who trust Jesus are ([John 1:12](#)). They act like Jesus never talked about sin or judgment, but He warned people constantly. Worst of all, they say doctrine doesn’t matter, but the Bible says it does ([1 Timothy 4:16](#)). This kind of teaching doesn’t help people, it confuses them and keeps them lost.

David
Reformed Baptist
Charlestown, IN

"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" ~ [Luke 6:46](#)

P

PB & g

Puritan Board Freshman

Yesterday at 3:53 PM



#2

I believe it's worth noting that the apostle's instruction was never, "just search the Scriptures and see what you find." But rather, the people searched the Scriptures to ensure that the apostle's teaching aligns.

Teachers and shepherds are a gift from God. Their teaching is to be received with gladness if it aligns with Scripture. As wise teacher doesn't just hand the student a Bible and then ask them to formulate beliefs from it.

Garrett
Reformed but attending a Baptist church
Tennessee



D

Dkshotwell

Puritan Board Freshman

Yesterday at 6:16 PM



#3

I remember when i was first saved over forty years ago and I thought all I needed was my faith and my bible, and that The Spirit would make every line of Scripture clear to me. He did make some things clear right away, but there was a lot of what I read that I thought I had a handle on, only to find out later that I had missed the message by a mile, and it led me to some goofy conclusions. So I have to kind of disagree with some of what you wrote, and I say yes to instruction, indoctrination and the leading of men who were given more light than the average saint is given. My own (mis)understanding in the beginning led me to a WOF church. Certainly there are corrupt seminaries and theologians, but that doesn't mean we then lean on our own understanding.

David
SBC
Aurora Colorado

This space reserved for random Greek or Latin quote without translation



M

MW

Puritanboard
Amanuensis

Yesterday at 6:52 PM



#4

bdavidc said:

Not indoctrination, but only what comes from the Word of God. **Break Free from the System, Study the Word.**

I find your post to be an over-reaction, very similar to what is often done with "tradition." The Bible itself teaches us to learn its doctrines by means of pastoral ministry, just as it teaches the importance of a tradition of truth. Your expressions also suggest to me that you have not contemplated the different gifts and places that each one has in the body. Some are teachers, not all. God has tempered the body of Christ to make it dependent on teachers. It is the way God has made it according to 1 Corinthians 12. Trying to make the whole body an eye is contrary to the teaching of Scripture. You might need to heed your own advice and break free from the "system" that has taught you to set the Word and the ministry in opposition to one another.

Blessings!

Rev. Matthew Winzer

Australian Free Church

Victoria, Australia



2



bdavidc

Puritan Board Freshman

Yesterday at 6:54 PM



#5

PB & g said:

I believe it's worth noting that the apostle's instruction was never, "just search the Scriptures and see what you find." But rather, the people searched the Scriptures to ensure that the apostle's teaching aligns.

Teachers and shepherds are a gift from God. Their teaching is to be received with gladness if it aligns with Scripture. As wise teacher doesn't just hand the student a Bible and then ask them to formulate beliefs from it.

You're misunderstanding what I actually wrote. I never said teachers and shepherds aren't needed or that God doesn't use them. What I said—and what [Acts 17:11](#) clearly shows—is that all teaching must be tested by Scripture. The Bereans didn't blindly follow Paul, and he was an apostle. They received the word **with eagerness**, yes, but they also **searched the Scriptures daily to see whether those things were so**. That's the model.

No, a wise teacher doesn't just hand someone a Bible and walk away, but he also doesn't ask them to accept a system, creed, or tradition without question. The problem today is that too many teachers expect loyalty to a theological framework instead of loyalty to God's Word. That's what I'm warning against—not godly instruction, but indoctrination.

[Ephesians 4:11–14](#) says God gave teachers to equip the saints and help them grow in maturity so they won't be "tossed to and fro" by false doctrine. But that assumes the teachers are rightly dividing the Word of truth ([2 Timothy 2:15](#)), and it also assumes the hearers are comparing what they're taught with Scripture like the Bereans did. That's not rebellion against godly teachers, that's obedience to God's standard.

You're twisting my words if you think I said "just go find your own truth." That's what the world says, not me. What I said is this: *don't trust man above Scripture*. And that's exactly what Jesus taught when He rebuked the Pharisees for "teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" ([Mark 7:7](#)). If a teacher is faithful to God's Word, praise God. But if not, no amount of title, tradition, or authority makes their teaching valid.

So yes, thank God for true teachers. But even they are accountable to the Word. And every believer still needs to read and study the Bible for themselves so they're not misled. That's not arrogance, that's obedience.

Post automatically merged: Yesterday at 7:03 PM

MW said:

I find your post to be an over-reaction, very similar to what is often done with "tradition." The Bible itself teaches us to learn its doctrines by means of pastoral ministry, just as it teaches the importance of a tradition of truth. Your expressions also suggest to me that you have not contemplated the different gifts and places that each one has in the body. Some are teachers, not all. God has tempered the body of Christ to make it dependent on teachers. It is the way God has made it according to 1 Corinthians 12. Trying to make the whole body an eye is contrary to the teaching of Scripture. You might need to heed your own advice and break free from the "system"

What you just said proves my point. You're defending a system where ministry is elevated alongside, or even above, Scripture. That's exactly the danger I was addressing. **You're reading things into my post that I didn't say. I never denied that God gives teachers.** I never said every believer becomes a teacher. I never set the Word against ministry. What I said, and what the Bible says, is that **all teaching must be tested by the Word of God**, and that **every believer is called to know that Word for themselves**.

You brought up 1 Corinthians 12, which talks about spiritual gifts in the body of Christ. But that chapter doesn't say teachers are the final authority. It says God has placed different members in the body to serve different roles. Yes, there are teachers ([1 Corinthians 12:28](#)), but that same Bible **commands believers to test all things** ([1 Thessalonians 5:21](#)), **to study to show themselves approved** ([2 Timothy 2:15](#)), and to be like the Bereans, **who didn't blindly follow even an apostle without checking the Scriptures** ([Acts 17:11](#)). That isn't rebellion, that's discernment.

You also mentioned "tradition," but **Jesus warned sharply against elevating tradition over Scripture**. He said, "**Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition**" ([Mark 7:9](#)). Paul told the Colossians, "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, and not after Christ" ([Colossians 2:8](#)). Not all tradition is bad, **but if it ever competes with or overrides Scripture, it must be rejected**.

God did not give us His Word so that we could depend on someone else to explain it to us **for life**. He gave us His Spirit to guide us into all truth ([John 16:13](#)), and His Word to sanctify us ([John 17:17](#)). Teachers are a blessing, **if they submit to Scripture**. But if someone says, 'Let me tell you what this means, just trust me,' and **discourages people from studying the Bible themselves**, they are not helping the body, they are enslaving it, **and possibly leading others into deception**.

There's no conflict between the Word and godly ministry. **The conflict is between the Word and man-made systems that claim to speak for God but contradict what He actually said**. If you're depending on the body without depending on the Head, you're in danger. And Christ is the Head, **not the clergy, not the church system, and not tradition** ([Colossians 1:18](#)).

So yes, we all have different gifts. But **God's Word is for all, not just for teachers**. "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 Timothy 3:16-17](#)). **That applies to every believer, not just the pulpit**. If you think otherwise, maybe it's time you broke free from the system that trained you to depend on men more than on Scripture.

Last edited: Yesterday at 7:03 PM

David
Reformed Baptist
Charlestown, IN

"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" ~ [Luke 6:46](#)



bdavidc

Puritan Board Freshman

Yesterday at 7:12 PM



#6

Dkshotwell said:

I remember when i was first saved over forty years ago and I thought all I needed was my faith and my bible, and that The Spirit would make every line of Scripture clear to me. He did make some things clear right away, but there was a lot of what I read that I thought I had a handle on, only to find out later that I had missed the message by a mile, and it led me to some goofy conclusions. So I have to kind of disagree with some of what you wrote, and I say yes to instruction, indoctrination and the leading of men who were given more light than the average saint is given. My own (mis)understanding in the beginning led me to a WOF church. Certainly there are

I hear your experience, but respectfully, you're mixing up two different issues. **No one is saying believers should lean on their own understanding apart from God.** What I said is that we must lean on *God's Word*, **not on man's authority.** That includes pastors, teachers, church systems, and yes, even ourselves. [Proverbs 3:5](#) says, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding," but it doesn't say, "So just trust men who claim they have more light than you."

The real problem wasn't that you were studying the Bible on your own. The problem was that you ended up in a false system, Word of Faith, because no one taught you how to rightly divide the Word of truth ([2 Timothy 2:15](#)). That's not a failure of Scripture; that's a failure of discernment. The solution isn't to hand the steering wheel over to men who say they have a deeper revelation. It's to submit everything, including their teaching, to the full counsel of God's Word.

You say yes to indoctrination. But Jesus rebuked the Pharisees because they were indoctrinating people with the traditions of men, not the truth of God. He said, "In vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" ([Matthew 15:9](#)). Paul warned the Colossians to beware of being spoiled "through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ" ([Colossians 2:8](#)).

We all start out needing instruction. No question there. But we're not called to be spoon-fed for life. [Hebrews 5:12](#) rebukes believers who "ought to be teachers" but still needed milk. God expects us to grow, and that growth happens through the Word, not just through someone else's opinions. Teachers are a gift, but only when they point people to Scripture, not when they ask for blind loyalty or act like gatekeepers of truth.

The Holy Spirit does guide believers into truth ([John 16:13](#)), and He uses His Word to do it ([John 17:17](#)). If some things take time to understand, fine, we

keep studying. But saying that only select men have "more light than the average saint" opens the door to spiritual elitism and error. God gave us the Bible for a reason, and He expects every believer to read it, study it, and test everything against it ([Acts 17:11](#), [1 Thessalonians 5:21](#)). That's not pride, that's obedience.

If you don't study the Bible for yourself, you're wide open to deception, and you just might end up in a Word of Faith church or some other cult without even realizing it. If someone tells you not to study the Bible for yourself, watch out. That's how deception starts.

David
Reformed Baptist
Charlestown, IN

"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" ~ [Luke 6:46](#)

M

MW

Puritanboard
Amanuensis

Yesterday at 7:13 PM



#7

bdavidc said:

What you just said proves my point.

And what you said just proves my point. There is a doctrinal system that prevails in both cases. You present Scripture with a doctrinal understanding that accords with your "independent" mentality. It is clear to me that you do not understand the Scriptures you are quoting. In context they all say something different to what you are trying to make them say. Sitting under the ministry of the Word might train you to better understand the Word so as not to twist its meaning. [1 Thessalonians 5:21](#) comes after verse 12-13, where one is urged to know those who are OVER them in the Lord. [2 Timothy 2:15](#) is written to Timothy, a minister and teacher entrusted with the sacred duty of INDOCTRINATING others. [Acts 17:11](#) applies to searching whether an APOSTLE was teaching according to the Old Testament. [Mark 7:9](#) addresses unbiblical, man-made traditions, not all traditions. [Colossians 2:8](#) deals with the same thing. [John 16:13](#) was spoken to the apostles who were gifted with the infallible Spirit. You do not know what the Scriptures teach. You need to be TAUGHT.

Blessings!
Rev. Matthew Winzer
Australian Free Church
Victoria, Australia



bdavidc

Puritan Board Freshman

Yesterday at 7:27 PM



#8

MW said:

And what you said just proves my point. There is a doctrinal system that prevails in both cases. You present Scripture with a doctrinal understanding that accords with your "independent" mentality. It is clear to me that you do not understand the Scriptures you are quoting. In context they all say something different to what you are trying to make them say. Sitting under the ministry of the Word might train you to better understand the Word so as not to twist its meaning. [1 Thessalonians 5:21](#) comes after verse 12-13, where one is urged to know those who are OVER them in the Lord. [2 Timothy 2:15](#) is written to Timothy, a minister and teacher entrusted with

You're accusing me of twisting Scripture, but what you've done is insert a system into the text that simply isn't there. You're using the same passages I quoted, but trying to force them into a framework where only leaders have

access to true understanding and everyone else must sit quietly and be indoctrinated. **That's not what the Bible teaches.**

1 [Thessalonians 5:12–13](#) says to “know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord,” and to esteem them highly in love for their work’s sake. That’s about honoring faithful laborers, **not giving them unchecked authority or treating them as the only ones allowed to handle Scripture.** Verse 21, **which you downplay**, still says “prove all things,” and that’s a command to the brethren, not just the leaders.

You claim [2 Timothy 2:15](#) is only for Timothy as a minister, but Paul also told Timothy, “These things command and teach” ([1 Timothy 4:11](#)), and **he expected believers to grow in understanding, not remain dependent on one man.** The Bible calls all believers to study and be rooted in truth ([Colossians 3:16](#), [Psalm 1:2](#)), **not to outsource their understanding to others.**

As for [Acts 17:11](#), yes, the Bereans were checking Paul’s teaching against the Old Testament Scriptures, but that proves the very point I made, **they didn’t blindly accept apostolic authority.** They searched the Scriptures daily to confirm whether what they were hearing was true. If they were called noble for testing Paul, how much more should we test pastors, teachers, or self-proclaimed authorities today?

Regarding [Mark 7:9](#) and [Colossians 2:8](#), you’re trying to limit these warnings to certain types of traditions, but the text doesn’t give that loophole. **Jesus rebuked those who elevated any commandment of men above the Word of God**, and Paul warned against any tradition or philosophy not rooted in Christ. The standard is always Scripture, not whether a tradition looks religious or sounds reasonable.

You also claim that [John 16:13](#) only applies to the apostles, but **that doesn’t hold up either.** Jesus said the Spirit would “**guide you into all truth**,” and **the same Spirit is given to all believers** ([Romans 8:9](#), [1 John 2:27](#)). Scripture does not teach that the Spirit’s role in leading people to truth ended with the apostles. In fact, the Bible says the Word of God 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 Timothy 3:16–17](#)). **That’s not limited to teachers. That’s for every believer** not just you.

You’re the one perverting Scripture **to protect a man-centered structure of control.** The Bible never tells us to hand over our spiritual discernment to religious authorities. **It calls us to search, study, and test everything by the Word of God.** That’s not rebellion, that’s obedience. If someone resists being tested by Scripture, **that’s the real red flag.**

Yes, we all need to be taught, but we need to be taught by someone who truly

loves the Lord Jesus, **not by someone who thinks they have all the answers and looks down on others** like they're too ignorant to read and learn the Bible for themselves.

David
Reformed Baptist
Charlestown, IN

"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" ~ Luke 6:46

M

MW

Puritanboard
Amanuensis

Yesterday at 7:41 PM



#9

bdavidc said:

You're accusing me of twisting Scripture, but what you've done is insert a system into the text that simply isn't there. You're using the same passages I quoted, but trying to force them into a framework where only leaders have access to true understanding and everyone else must sit quietly and be indoctrinated. **That's not what the Bible teaches.**

That is nonsense. Now you are twisting my words to prove your error.

bdavidc said:

[1 Thessalonians 5:12–13](#) says to "know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord," and to esteem them highly in love for their work's sake. That's about honoring faithful laborers, **not giving them unchecked authority or treating them as the only ones allowed to handle Scripture**. Verse 21, **which you downplay**, still says "prove all things," and that's a command to the brethren, not just the leaders.

Yes, OVER them in the Lord. Nothing about unchecked authority. This is what you hear because you have been indoctrinated with error.

bdavidc said:

You claim [2 Timothy 2:15](#) is only for Timothy as a minister, but Paul also told Timothy, "These things command and teach" ([1 Timothy 4:11](#)), and **he expected believers to grow in understanding, not remain dependent on one man**.

No; he expected them to remain dependent on Timothy's teaching, which you would know if you were properly taught in accord with what the apostle goes on to say in v. 16, "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in

them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, **and them that hear thee.**

bdavidc said:

The Bible calls all believers to study and be rooted in truth ([Colossians 3:16](#), [Psalm 1:2](#)), **not to outsource their understanding to others.**

Again, you make the two to conflict because you are imposing your DOCTRINAL ERROR onto the text..

bdavidc said:

As for [Acts 17:11](#), yes, the Bereans were checking Paul's teaching against the Old Testament Scriptures, but that proves the very point I made, **they didn't blindly accept apostolic authority.**

So how is someone going to trust the Scriptures if they have to first prove the apostolic Scriptures they are supposed to trust. What are you going to say, that we should only trust the Old Testament until we have first proven that the apostles speak accordingly?

bdavidc said:

They searched the Scriptures daily to confirm whether what they were hearing was true. If they were called noble for testing Paul, how much more should we test pastors, teachers, or self-proclaimed authorities today?

Yes, what they were HEARING. They were not attempting to TEACH THEMSELVES and then judge the apostle in light of what they already thought they knew.

bdavidc said:

Regarding [Mark 7:9](#) and [Colossians 2:8](#), you're trying to limit these warnings to certain types of traditions, but the text doesn't give that loophole. **Jesus rebuked those who elevated any commandment of men above the Word of God**, and Paul warned against any tradition or philosophy not rooted in Christ. The standard is always Scripture, not whether a tradition looks religious or sounds reasonable.

I limited the warnings to the very terms you have repeated to me. There is nothing here against a tradition of truth.

bdavidc said:

You also claim that [John 16:13](#) only applies to the apostles, but **that doesn't hold up either**. Jesus said the Spirit would "**guide you into all truth**," and **the same Spirit is given to all believers** ([Romans 8:9](#), [1 John 2:27](#)). Scripture does not teach that the Spirit's role in leading people to truth ended with the apostles. In fact, the Bible says the Word of God 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 Timothy 3:16-17](#)). **That's not limited to teachers. That's for every believer** not just you.

More erroneous systematic indoctrination. You string together Scriptures without any regard for what they are saying in context. Jesus says the Spirit will lead into ALL truth. Does that mean every believer has ALL TRUTH? Of course not. Why don't you take some time to consider what I am saying to you rather than come back trying to vindicate your errors.

Blessings!

Rev. Matthew Winzer
Australian Free Church
Victoria, Australia



RamistThomist
Puritanboard Assessor

Yesterday at 7:44 PM



#10

Westminster (or London Baptist) is a tradition. Should I break free from that?

JB Aitken
RE, EPC, Monroe, LA
WCF

P

paranymph
Puritan Board Freshman

Yesterday at 8:03 PM



#11

Interestingly, the Bereans were a group, the beginnings of a church. They were not individual Christians in their homes reading the Bible by themselves. They didn't even have personal Bibles. "Being a Berean" means interpreting Scripture with your church.

Drew
2LBC Pastor
NY



bdavidc

Puritan Board Freshman

Yesterday at 8:08 PM



#12

MW said:

That is nonsense. Now you are twisting my words to prove your error.

Yes. OVER them in the Lord. Nothing about unchecked authority. This is what you

Click to expand...

You're accusing me of twisting your words, yet your entire argument rests on a **false accusation I never made**. I never said believers have to "teach themselves" or that we should reject those who labor in the Word. What I said, and what the Bible teaches, is that every believer is called to test all things by Scripture, **not blindly accept what any teacher or leader says** ([1 Thessalonians 5:21](#)). That's not rebellion, that's obedience to God's Word. You quoted [1 Thessalonians 5:12-13](#) to say leaders are "over" others, and they are, in a biblical sense of service and example, but **Paul didn't say "obey them without question."** You're adding that. Verse 21 still stands as a command to all the brethren, not just the leaders: "Prove all things." **Your interpretation conveniently cuts that off to preserve your system of control**, not the text. People like you, who resist being held accountable to what the Bible actually teaches, **are exactly the kind of people I'm warning others to watch out for**. Why are you so opposed to people reading and studying the Bible for themselves? If you were truly teaching the truth of God's Word, you wouldn't be threatened by that.

You claim that [1 Timothy 4:16](#) proves that believers were meant to depend on Timothy's teaching. **No**, it proves Timothy needed to stay faithful to doctrine, so those hearing him would be saved. **That verse says nothing about forbidding others from testing what they heard**. Paul told Timothy to "command and teach," yes, **but what he was teaching was sound doctrine**, doctrine that must be examined in light of Scripture. The entire point of Paul's letters is **to preserve truth, not protect authority**.

You also claim that believers shouldn't "teach themselves" or examine what apostles said, yet in [Acts 17:11](#), the Bereans were praised for testing Paul, not with feelings, not with tradition, but with the Scriptures. **They didn't suspend judgment until some authority told them what to believe**. They listened, then searched the Scriptures daily to see whether those things were so. That's the model, Scripture first, every time. Your objection, "How can someone trust the Scriptures if they have to first prove them?" **is a misdirection**. The Bereans weren't doubting God's Word, **they were testing the messenger**, the same

thing every Christian is commanded to do ([1 John 4:1](#)). Paul didn't rebuke them, he called them noble.

As for your dismissal of [John 16:13](#), you're misrepresenting what I said again. I **never claimed each believer has "all truth," but the Spirit does lead each believer into truth through the Word.** The Holy Spirit doesn't stop working at the pulpit. [Romans 8:9](#) says every believer has the Spirit of Christ, and [1 John 2:27](#) says the anointing we have teaches us. That's not some fringe doctrine, **it's plainly written.** And [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#) says Scripture equips the believer for every good work, not some believer, not a select group, but "the man of God," which **includes any believer walking in Christ.**

Your accusation that I'm "stringing verses together" **only proves your discomfort with the Bible being used in full context.** Every verse I quoted lines up with the same theme: test every teaching by the Word, depend on the Spirit and the Scripture, and do not exalt man-made authority above the authority of God's Word. You can call it systematic error if you want, **I call it rightly dividing the Word of truth.**

So no, I haven't taken anything out of context. I'm not pushing a system, I'm submitting to the Scriptures, and holding every teacher, including myself, accountable to them. **That's what you should be doing.**

David
Reformed Baptist
Charlestown, IN

"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" ~ [Luke 6:46](#)

M

MarrowMan
Puritan Board
Sophomore

Yesterday at 8:13 PM



#13

[bdavidc](#) said:

[View attachment 12047](#)

*... they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily **to see if these things were so.** ~ [Acts 17:11](#)*

Click to expand...

Is there something you are responding to with this post, specifically? Or just a general trend you've observed in your experience? I'm trying to get at your thrust, or better perhaps, why you're thrust is what it is.

Ryan
Teaching Elder
RPCNA
New York



bdavidc

Puritan Board Freshman

Yesterday at 8:15 PM



#14

RamistThomist said:

Westminster (or London Baptist) is a tradition. Should I break free from that?

Why would you want to do that? Both the Westminster Confession of Faith and the London Baptist Confession affirm Sola Scriptura, emphasizing that the Bible alone is the ultimate, infallible authority for Christian doctrine and practice. There is no evidence in either confession to suggest they oppose this doctrine. Instead, they consistently elevate Scripture above all other sources of authority, making Sola Scriptura a foundational element of their theology.

But if your allegiance to **Westminster** or **London Baptist Confessions** ever takes priority over **Scripture**, then you absolutely should break free from that. God never calls us to submit to any **man-made system**, no matter how old or detailed, if it adds to or modifies what the Bible clearly says.

David
Reformed Baptist
Charlestown, IN

"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" ~ Luke 6:46



MyCrows

Puritan Board
Sophomore

Yesterday at 8:16 PM



#15

"The Puritan Board provides Christian discussion in a Confessionally Reformed Evangelical context. We are Evangelical because we protest the authority, truth claims and idolatry of the Roman Catholic Church. We are Reformed because we believe that men and women are dead in trespasses and it requires the power of God in salvation through Christ. Christ has broken the power of sin to enslave us and has purchased our faith so that, in Him, we rise to newness of life. **We are Confessional because we believe that the Scriptures are clear regarding matters of life and salvation. Confessions are not the Scriptures, but they faithfully represent the core truths of the Scriptures and provide a unifying body of teaching that has stood the test of**

centuries."

Which confession do you hold to, and with what exceptions? I also am wondering if there was a specific system in mind when you posted this. Surely there are troublesome systems, but there are also systems that strive to uphold the core truths of scripture.

Imploring men to be reconciled to God;
knowing the terror of the Lord;
that He hath commanded all men to repent;
and that He hath appointed a day when He will judge the world in righteousness,
by His eternal Son Jesus Christ;
who was, and is, and is to come;
the Seed, the Branch,
the Rock, the Redeemer,
and the Destroyer;
God having confirmed this by raising Him from the dead.

Mike Rose
PCA
Berlin, PA



bdavidc

Puritan Board Freshman

Yesterday at 8:20 PM



#16

MarrowMan said:

Is there something you are responding to with this post, specifically? Or just a general trend you've observed in your experience? I'm trying to get at your thrust, or better perhaps, why your thrust is what it is.

Thanks for the question. This post isn't aimed at any one person, group, or event, but it is a response to a very real trend I've seen over and over, where people are trained to follow systems, traditions, and church structures **without testing anything by the Bible**. That's not just my experience, it's a widespread issue across denominations, seminaries, and religious education in general. My goal is simple: to call people back to **Sola Scriptura**, the Bible as the final authority, and to challenge any teaching or tradition that discourages people from reading, studying, and applying God's Word for themselves.

If someone reads that and gets uncomfortable, it's probably because they've seen or been part of this problem too. The thrust of my post is this, **real discipleship is rooted in the Word, not in indoctrination**, and we should

never be afraid to test what we've been taught by Scripture, no matter who taught it.

David
Reformed Baptist
Charlestown, IN

Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" ~ [Luke 6:46](#)

M

MW

Puritanboard
Amanuensis

Yesterday at 8:27 PM



#17

bdavidc said:

You're accusing me of twisting your words, yet your entire argument rests on a **false accusation I never made.**

You said, **Break Free from the System, Study the Word.** I am showing you that you can study the Word within the system that God has ordained. You do not need to break free from INDOCTRINATION. We are meant to be TAUGHT from the Word. You want to set these in opposition to each other whereas Scripture itself teaches that they work together.

bdavidc said:

I never said believers have to "teach themselves" or that we should reject those who labor in the Word. What I said, and what the Bible teaches, is that every believer is called to test all things by Scripture, **not blindly accept what any teacher or leader says** ([1 Thessalonians 5:21](#)). That's not rebellion, that's obedience to God's Word. You quoted [1 Thessalonians 5:12-13](#) to say leaders are "over" others, and they are, in a biblical sense of service and example, but **Paul didn't say "obey them without question." You're adding that.**

I never added that because I never said that. Once again your false dichotomy is reading that into my words.

bdavidc said:

People like you, who resist being held accountable to what the Bible actually teaches, **are exactly the kind of people I'm warning others to watch out for.**

And here we see your true colours. This is slander. It was implicit from the first, and it is now evident for all to see.

I have corrected your error. If you refuse to take correction I leave you to your own devices to suffer the consequences.

Blessings!
Rev. Matthew Winzer
Australian Free Church
Victoria, Australia



RamistThomist
Puritanboard Assessor

Yesterday at 8:27 PM



#18

bdavidc said:

Why would you want to do that? Both the Westminster Confession of Faith and the London Baptist Confession affirm Sola Scriptura, emphasizing that the Bible alone is the ultimate, infallible authority for Christian doctrine and practice. There is no evidence in either confession to suggest they oppose this doctrine. Instead, they consistently elevate Scripture above all other sources of authority, making Sola Scriptura a foundational element of their theology.

But if your allegiance to **Westminster** or **London Baptist Confessions** ever takes

Then I have to ask who your audience is, for no one here rates those confessions higher than Scripture.

JB Aitken
RE, EPC, Monroe, LA
WCF



John The Baptist
Puritan Board
Sophomore

Yesterday at 8:37 PM



#19

Why on the Lord's day? Better to spend time reading scripture and in prayer with our families.

Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

[Isaiah 55:13 ESV](#)

John
Non-denominational
1689 (for now...)
Macomb, IL



M

MarrowManPuritan Board
Sophomore

Yesterday at 8:37 PM



#20

bdavidc said:

Thanks for the question. This post isn't aimed at any one person, group, or event, but it is a response to a very real trend I've seen over and over, where people are trained to follow systems, traditions, and church structures **without testing anything by the Bible**. That's not just my experience, it's a widespread issue across denominations, seminaries, and religious education in general. My goal is simple: to call people back to **Sola Scriptura**, the Bible as the final authority, and to challenge any teaching or tradition that discourages people from reading, studying, and applying God's Word for themselves.

I don't know that many (if any) here would disagree with the primacy of Scripture and judging things by Scripture. Our Confessions are what we believe to be faithful distillations of Scripture and we as elders ought always to be teaching them as such.

Ryan
Teaching Elder
RPCNA
New York

**bdavidc**

Puritan Board Freshman

Yesterday at 8:39 PM



#21

MyCrows said:

"The Puritan Board provides Christian discussion in a Confessionally Reformed Evangelical context. We are Evangelical because we protest the authority, truth claims and idolatry of the Roman Catholic Church. We are Reformed because we believe that men and women are dead in trespasses and it requires the power of God in salvation through Christ. Christ has broken the power of sin to enslave us and has purchased

Click to expand...

Wow, I'm being attacked for promoting **Sola Scriptura** on this message board. **If one of the moderators could clarify whether this board does not uphold Sola Scriptura as its foundation, please let me know. If that's the case, I'll respectfully move on and not post here.**

That said, **I actually agree with the statement you made**. If you believe I've contradicted it, I'd sincerely ask you to point out where in my post I've done that. It seems I've offended some simply by encouraging people to read and study the Bible for themselves. I'm not attacking anyone, I'm calling for every believer to go directly to the Word and measure everything by it, which is what Scripture itself commands us to do.

You also asked if I had a specific system in mind when I wrote the post. The short answer is no, not just one. My concern is with any system, including confessional ones, that discourages believers from going straight to the Word of God. The problem isn't limited to the Roman Catholic Church. It's any tradition that elevates its framework above Scripture or trains people to defend a man-made structure instead of following Christ directly. That's what I'm warning about. Systems may aim to preserve truth, but only the **Word of God** is truth ([John 17:17](#)). That's where our loyalty belongs.

I was only trying to make conversation and see what others thought, but instead of a thoughtful discussion, I was attacked. That sure sends up some red flags with me.

Post automatically merged: Yesterday at 8:46 PM

[RamistThomist](#) said:

Then I have to ask who your audience is, for no one here rates those confessions higher than Scripture.

Since I just started posting here, I honestly don't know what people here believe or how much they rely on confessions. That's why I'm asking questions and starting conversations. I'm not assuming the worst, I'm trying to understand. But I will say this, based on the replies I've gotten so far, what I have noticed is that very few people here seem friendly. I expected some healthy dialogue around Scripture, but instead I've mostly been met with defensiveness and pushback. If no one here holds confessions above Scripture, great, but from what I've seen, it seems like questioning the confessions gets people more upset than questioning a misuse of Scripture. That's concerning.

Last edited: Yesterday at 8:46 PM

David
Reformed Baptist
Charlestown, IN

"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" ~ [Luke 6:46](#)



RamistThomist
Puritanboard Assessor

Yesterday at 9:00 PM



#22

bdavidc said:

Since I just started posting here, I honestly don't know what people here believe or how much they rely on confessions. That's why I'm asking questions and starting conversations. I'm not assuming the worst, I'm trying to understand. But I will say this, based on the replies I've gotten so far, what I have noticed is that very few people here seem friendly. I expected some healthy dialogue around Scripture, but instead I've mostly been met with defensiveness and pushback. If no one here holds confessions above Scripture, great, but from what I've seen, it seems like questioning the confessions gets people more upset than questioning a misuse of Scripture.

I think general charity suggests that those who affirm the Confessions, which themselves prioritize Scripture, probably prioritize Scripture.

JB Aitken
RE, EPC, Monroe, LA
WCF



John The Baptist
Puritan Board
Sophomore

Yesterday at 9:10 PM



#23

bdavidc said:

But I will say this, based on the replies I've gotten so far, what I have noticed is that very few people here seem friendly

David,

You must also look at the plank in your eye. *Some* of your comments have been uncharitable at best and perhaps could be seen as slanderous ('few people seem friendly')

There is a certain 'kind' of person who crops up here every once in awhile - **I am not saying you necessarily are** - that posts a thread about something with some vitriol, people respond and the person does not listen to the testimony of many wise people, then they get kicked off the board because it's obvious they were just trying to cause a fight.

It is possible to discern the difference between a person who wants to learn and a person who wants single-handedly tear down some confessional matter.

Perhaps some have responded swiftly without much grace because they see

you as one of those people. My recommendation is take a breather, read carefully, and if you want to learn then ask careful questions that get the heart of the issue.

Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

[Isaiah 55:13 ESV](#)

John
Non-denominational
1689 (for now...)
Macomb, IL



MyCrows

Puritan Board
Sophomore

Yesterday at 9:14 PM



#24

bdavidc said:

Wow, I'm being attacked for promoting **Sola Scriptura** on this message board. **If one of the moderators could clarify whether this board does not uphold Sola Scriptura as its foundation, please let me know. If that's the case, I'll respectfully move on and not post here.**

Click to expand...

I was actually just trying to establish some common ground. Seeing as you are a member of this board, and you have The LBC in your signature, what would it hurt hearing you speak charitably of at least one system in particular?

Imploring men to be reconciled to God;
knowing the terror of the Lord;
that He hath commanded all men to repent;
and that He hath appointed a day when He will judge the world in righteousness,
by His eternal Son Jesus Christ;
who was, and is, and is to come;
the Seed, the Branch,
the Rock, the Redeemer,
and the Destroyer;
God having confirmed this by raising Him from the dead.

Mike Rose
PCA
Berlin, PA



bdavidc

Puritan Board Freshman

Yesterday at 9:22 PM



#25

DARVO is not a Christian way to communicate. OP restricted from replying to thread.

MW said:

You said, **Break Free from the System, Study the Word**. I am showing you that you can study the Word within the system that God has ordained. You do not need to break free from INDOCTRINATION. We are meant to be TAUGHT from the Word. You want to set these in opposition to each other whereas Scripture itself teaches that they work together

You say you're "correcting my error," but what authority are you claiming, **yours or God's**? Because I don't recognize your opinions as binding, and I certainly don't need you acting like you're the Holy Spirit. I follow Sola Scriptura, not **Sola You**. You want to talk about systems "God has ordained," but show me where the Bible says I'm required to submit to man-made indoctrination **systems that elevate creeds, frameworks, or your voice above the Word of God**. The Bible doesn't say that. It says, "Prove all things, hold fast that which is good" ([1 Thessalonians 5:21](#)). That command was given to all believers, not just elders, councils, or **arrogant** men who think they speak for God.

You accuse me of slander, but the truth is, **you exposed yourself**. If calling out false authority and empty traditions that contradict Scripture makes you uncomfortable, that's not slander, that's conviction. You said, "we are meant to be taught from the Word." **I agree**, but **the Word is the standard, not the system doing the teaching**. Scripture never tells me to stop testing just because the teacher thinks he's above correction. You're offended because I won't bow to you or your tone. But Jesus said, "Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?" ([Matthew 15:3](#)). **That question still stands.**

And as for your last line, "If you refuse to take correction I leave you to your own devices to suffer the consequences", **save the empty threats**. I'll take correction from the Word of God, not from someone **puffed up with their own opinion**. You don't get to stand in the place of God and call it "correction." The only authority that holds weight here is Scripture, **and you're not it.**

You need to stop acting like you're the final authority on what God's people are allowed to believe, say, or test. You are not the voice of God, and I don't answer to you. I answer to His Word. You may be offended that I keep pointing people back to the Bible instead of bowing to your opinions, but that says more about your pride than about my obedience. Scripture says, "Prove all things, hold fast that which is good" ([1 Thessalonians 5:21](#)), and "Let God be true, but every man a liar" ([Romans 3:4](#)). That includes you. If you're not willing to have what you say tested by the Word of God, then you're not defending the truth, you're protecting your own ego.

You are trying to shut down the very thing that Scripture commands, that every believer study, examine, and compare what they hear with the truth of God's Word ([Acts 17:11](#)). That is not rebellion, it is obedience. You are not above correction, and you're not the gatekeeper of truth. Jesus said His sheep hear His voice, not yours ([John 10:27](#)). So if you're threatened by someone calling people back to the Bible, maybe it's because you've gotten used to people depending on your voice instead of God's.

Your authority is nothing without Scripture. If what you teach cannot stand up to the light of God's Word, then it needs to be exposed. Stop trying to control the conversation. This is not about your tradition, your framework, or your personal authority. This is about what God actually said, and I will keep pointing people back to that, whether you like it or not.

And just to let everyone know, you are the one who attacked me and escalated this conversation to this level. I truly hope you're not a leader in your church while behaving like this.

MW said:

I find your post to be an over-reaction, very similar to what is often done with "tradition." The Bible itself teaches us to learn its doctrines by means of pastoral ministry, just as it teaches the importance of a tradition of truth. Your expressions also suggest to me that you have not contemplated the different gifts and places that each one has in the body. Some are teachers, not all. God has tempered the body of Christ to make it dependent on teachers. It is the way God has made it according to 1 Corinthians 12. Trying to make the whole body an eye is contrary to the teaching of Scripture. You might need to heed your own advice and break free from the "system"

David
Reformed Baptist
Charlestown, IN

"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" ~ Luke 6:46



alexanderjames

Puritan Board
Sophomore

Today at 6:40 AM



#26

David, whilst I am in significant agreement with the initial sentiment of your argument, your posts come across as bullish and self-assertive, and your responses read as though you give no place to receive feedback or criticism. May I also point out that it was you who first brought into play accusations of **distorting Scripture's words**, and, (I'm saying this in love,) the way you have escalated in responding to others is at best demonstrating a severe lack of maturity and charity. We have to be careful not to read into others sentiments or views that aren't there, and be even more careful with our own words ([Matthew 12:37](#)).

Useful Links

As people have outlined already, on this forum we each hold, individually and corporately, that everything we believe and confess is subject to the authority and scrutiny of the holy Scriptures. We do study the Scriptures as having the first and foremost place in all things (well, at least that is what we all profess). I

hope that is evident. And I hope that we can all learn from this thread and have fellowship with you by fruitful conversation in the future.

Alex

Member of a local church within the Church of England
North West England

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8,017

Moderating. Admins suspended the OP author yesterday, so since this was his thread and he cannot reply, I'm closing it.

Chris Coldwell, Lakewood Presbyterian Church (PCA), Dallas, Texas.

- [Naphtali Press: Presbyterian & Reformed Books](#)
- [The Confessional Presbyterian Journal](#)

The Regulative Principle: The Scriptures are the "only infallible rule of faith and practice, no rite or ceremony ought to have a place in the public worship of God, which is not warranted in Scripture, either by direct precept or example, or by good and sufficient inference" (Samuel Miller).

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