Luther and Melanchthon
Since your majesty and your lordships desire a simple reply, I will answer without horns and without teeth. Unless I am convicted by scripture and plain reason--I do not accept the authority of popes and councils for they have contradicted each other--my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe.

Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise, God help me. Amen.
Romans 1:16-18

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, “The one who is righteous will live by faith.”

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of those who by their wickedness suppress the truth.
“Though I lived as a monk without reproach, I felt that I was a sinner before God with an extremely disturbed conscience. I could not believe that he was placated by my satisfaction. I did not love, yes, I hated the righteous God who punishes sinners...
...Nevertheless, I beat importunately upon Paul at that place [i.e., Romans 1:17], most ardently desiring to know what St. Paul wanted.”...
...At last, by the mercy of God, meditating day and night, I gave heed to the context of the words, namely, “In it the righteousness of God is revealed, as it is written, ‘He who through faith is righteous shall live.’ ”...
…There I began to understand that the righteousness of God is that by which the righteous lives by a gift of God, namely by faith…
…And this is the meaning: the righteousness of God is revealed by the gospel, namely, the passive righteousness with which merciful God justifies us by faith, as it is written, “He who through faith is righteous shall live.”
…Here I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates. There a totally other face of the entire Scripture showed itself to me.”
(Luther's Works, Volume 34, P336-337).
Some Essentials of Luther’s Thought

1. Justification by Grace through Faith in Christ Alone!

2. Sola Scriptura? The Word alone!

3. The Word of God as Law and Gospel
## U.S. Protestants split on sola fide, sola scriptura; in issues connected to Reformation, U.S. Catholics mostly echo traditional church views

### % of U.S. Protestants who believe...

| Faith in God alone is needed to get into heaven (sola fide) | Both good deeds and faith in God are needed to get into heaven | % of U.S. Catholics who believe...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>46%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>Faith in God alone is needed to get into heaven (sola fide)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bible provides all religious guidance Christians need (sola scriptura)</td>
<td>In addition to Bible, Christians need guidance from church teachings, traditions</td>
<td>Bible provides all religious guidance Christians need (sola scriptura)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>21%</td>
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### % of U.S. Catholics who believe...

| Faith in God alone is needed to get into heaven (sola fide) | Both good deeds and faith in God are needed to get into heaven | % of U.S. Protestants who believe...
<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>Faith in God alone is needed to get into heaven (sola fide)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bible provides all religious guidance Christians need (sola scriptura)</td>
<td>In addition to Bible, Christians need guidance from church teachings, traditions</td>
<td>Bible provides all religious guidance Christians need (sola scriptura)</td>
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<tr>
<td>21%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>21%</td>
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<td>4%</td>
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### Net Believe:

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<th>NET Believe one but not the other</th>
<th>Believe neither</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sola fide, not sola scriptura</td>
<td>Sola scriptura, not sola fide</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Believe in both sola fide, sola scriptura</th>
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<th>Believe neither</th>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sola fide, not sola scriptura</td>
<td>Sola scriptura, not sola fide</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Figures may not add to 100% or to subtotals indicated due to rounding. Analysis of share who believe in both based on those who answered both questions.

**Source:** Survey conducted May 30-Aug. 9, 2017.

“U.S. Protestants Are Not Defined by Reformation-Era Controversies 500 Years Later”

PEW RESEARCH CENTER
Luther on the Bible as God’s Word

Not

1. The Bible is God’s Word (because the Bible or the Church says so).
2. The Bible says Jesus is Lord and Savior.
3. Jesus must be Lord and Savior.

but rather…
Luther on the Bible as God’s Word

1. I have been put to death by the proclamation of God’s Law.
2. I have experienced being raised up, by Christ, the living Word.
3. The Bible has been a sure and essential means by which I’ve been slain and made alive, by which Christ has confronted me.
I have experienced that the Bible is also, in a sense, God’s word.
The Word of God, According to Luther

1. Primarily: Jesus the Christ is the living Word of God.

2. Secondarily: The Proclamation of the Gospel is the Word of God.

3. Tertiarily: The Bible is (contains?) the Word of God written.
I learned to distinguish between the righteousness of the law and the righteousness of the gospel. ....But when I discovered the proper distinction—namely, that the law is one thing and the gospel is another—I made myself free.-- (Luther's Works, Volume 54, P442).
The Word of God is Two, according to Luther

LAW

and

Gospel
The Gospel: We are Put Right with God by
“The law proves to us that we cannot stand before God in our own righteousness, and that drives us to the Gospel.”

—Martin Luther

Luther on the Christian Life by Carl Trueman
“I myself am convinced that without knowledge of the [Humanistic] studies, pure theology can by no means exist, as has been the case until now; when the [Humanistic] studies were miserably ruined and prostrate [theology] declined and lay neglected…
…I realize that there has never been a great revelation of God’s word unless God has first prepared the way by the rise and flourishing of languages and learning, as thought these were forerunners, a sort of [John] the Baptist.”
--Luther to Eobanus Hessus, 29 March 1523
Philipp Melanchthon.
Holzschnitt von Lucas Cranach, nach Melanchthons Tod erschienen.
Uses of the Law for Luther

1st the “Civil Use”: The Law teaches us how to be righteous in the eyes of our neighbor and/or civil society.

2nd the “Theological Use”: The Law reveals our sinfulness to us—that we do not love God with all of our hearts, nor do we love our neighbors as ourselves.

Luther, the theologian, focusses on the 2nd use of the Law.
Uses of the Law for Melanchthon

1\textsuperscript{st}, the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Use: Lex semper accusat! (The Law in its theological use always accuses us.) BUT/AND…

2\textsuperscript{nd}, the 1\textsuperscript{st} Use: “Lex non tantum accusat!” (In its civil use, law is necessary for good life here and now.)

AND Melanchthon is concerned to highlight and expand the 2\textsuperscript{nd} use of the law:
Melanchthon and Law

For Melanchthon, in effect, the “civil use” of the law of God becomes a “philosophical use,” where philosophy usefully contains

--**Rhetoric** (dealing wisely and well with language) AND
--**Ethics** or outer righteousness (dealing wisely and well with our neighbor) AND
--**Physics or natural philosophy** (dealing wisely and well with nature)
Some of Melanchthon’s Philosophical Works:

On the Order of Learning
On the Distinction between the Gospel and Philosophy
On the Study of Languages
Praise of Eloquence
Questions on Dialectics
Two Books on the Elements of Rhetoric
Commentary on Cicero’s On Duties
Some Expositions of the Ethical Books of Aristotle
More of Melanchthon’s Philosophical Works:

*On Philosophy*
*On Natural Philosophy*
*On Astronomy and Geography*
*On Anatomy*
*Commentary on the Soul* (several editions)
*On the Merit of the Art of Medicine*
*On the Merit of Laws*
*On the Merit of Studying Theology*
Evangelical Catholic Spiritual Humanistic Reforming