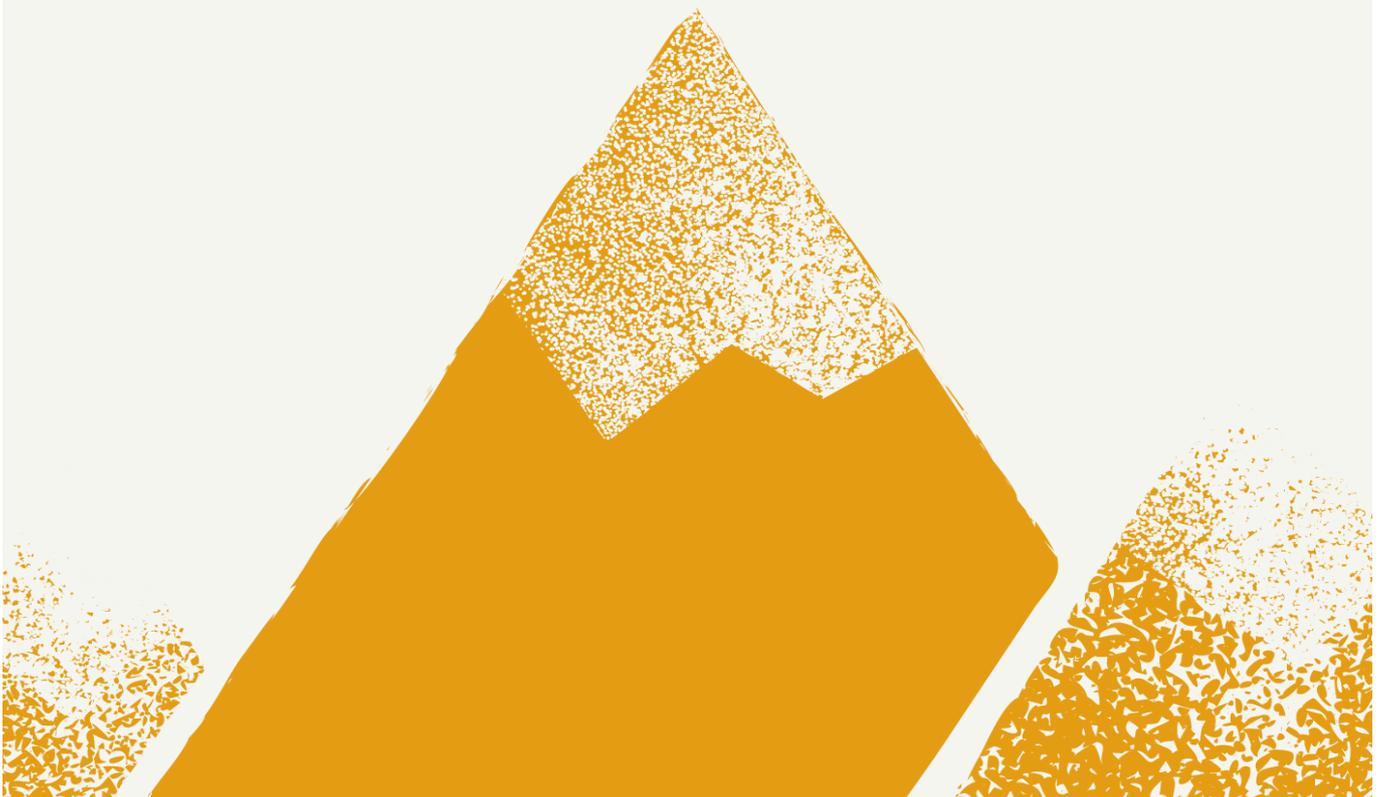


You can make an **optional donation** of R5 to help with the printing costs. You can place the donation in the collection box.

*Pretoria North
Baptist Church*

THE 5-SOLAS



“Sola Scriptura” Scripture Alone is our Standard!

2 Tim 3:16

Introduction:

- Five hundred years ago, the central debate in the Reformation protest against Medieval Roman Catholicism was the **PROPER PLACE** of the **BIBLE**.
- *Was it merely one of several avenues of God’s revelation? Did it sit alongside the Church, which has equal authority to Scripture? OR, was GOD’S WORD in some way **UNIQUE, SINGULAR** in its **AUTHORITY** and **SUFFICIENCY**?*
- Answering these questions is **NOT** merely an academic exercise; these are **LIFE** and **DEATH** issues!
- What Scripture communicates is **NOT** the passing realities of yesteryear, it is none other than **GOD’S AUTHORITY** to **FALLEN HUMANITY** about **HOW** to get **RIGHT** with Him.
- **ETERNAL** issues are at stake; souls are **WON** or **LOST** depending upon the answers to these questions!
- And so, the Protestant Reformation was born out of a **QUESTION** of **AUTHORITY**.
- *What should a Christian do when the Church or someone else declares a doctrine that contradicts the Biblical teaching as something that all Christians must believe? Upon what authority do Christians base their opinions when it comes to godly issues of faith and piety?*
- **SOLA SCRIPTURA** then emphasizes that the **WORD OF GOD**, the **BIBLE**, is to be our **FINAL AUTHORITY**.

***SCRIPTURE ALONE** is to be the **STANDARD** of **TRUTH** by which we evaluate **ALL** teaching we receive from our **LEADERS, TRADITIONS, our CULTURE** or **WHOMEVER**.*

Study Points:

1) **WHY** do we believe this about the Bible?

- The Biblical Church rests in the knowledge that God is **KNOWN** through His **WORD** and that His **WORD** is a reflection of His **CHARACTER**.
- Because it is **IMPOSSIBLE** for God to **LIE** (cf. **Num 23:19; Tit 1:2; Heb 6:18**), evangelicals have long asserted that God’s Word **CANNOT LIE**. It’s declarations are **INFALLIBLE** (incapable of making mistakes or being wrong) and **INERRANT** (without error or fault in all its teaching).
- We believe that the Bible is the **HIGHEST** and **FINAL AUTHORITY**, because of the **TESTIMONY** of the Bible **ABOUT ITSELF**:
 - **Ps 119:105, 114** – The Bible is **LIGHT** and **LAMP** for life and we should put our **HOPE** in it.
 - **1 Pet 1:23-25** – God’s Word is **IMPERISHABLE** and cannot fade away like we do but **REMAINS FOREVER**.
 - **Joh 17:17** – It is the **TRUTH!**
 - **2 Tim 3:16** – The **WHOLE** of the Bible is **BREATHED OUT** by God.
 - **2 Pet 1:19-21** – It is **MORE SURE** than any **EXPERIENCE** we can have, for it is **INSPIRED** by God – men wrote down its **WORDS** as they were being carried along by the **HOLY SPIRIT**.
 - **Jam 1:21** – It can **SAVE** you.
 - **Isa 55:10-11** – It brings about **EVERYTHING** that God sends it to do.
 - **Jer 23:29** – It is likened to a **HAMMER** that can break our **HARD, SINFUL HEARTS!**
 - **Heb 4:12** – It can cut into our **HEARTS** to **REVEAL** what is **REALLY** going on there.
 - **Eph 6:17 & Col 3:16** – The ministry of God’s **SPIRIT** and God’s **WORD** goes **HAND-IN-HAND** and that is why it should dwell **RICHLY** in the believer.

*The **BIBLE** does not merely **CONTAIN** the words of God,
but rather **EVERY WORD** of Scripture is **GOD’S WORD!***

- To **IGNORE** or **REJECT** anything in the Bible is to **IGNORE** and **REJECT GOD HIMSELF!**
- **EVERY TRUTH** claimed in Scripture calls for **UNQUALIFIED ACCEPTANCE!**
- **EVERY COMMAND** needs to be **OBEYED!**
- **EVERY PROMISE** will be **FULFILLED!**
- **EVERY WARNING** needs to be **HEEDED!**

2) WHAT do we believe about the Bible?

- **Ps 19...**
- **Verse 1-6** – GENERAL revelation. God making known His existence through the CREATION...
- **Verse 7-9** – SPECIFIC revelation. God making known Himself through HIS WORD...
- The first six verses don't result in a SPECIFIC REACTION, RESPONSE or EFFECT...
- Connected to each description of the WORD of God, is a SPECIFIC EFFECT that it has on the soul of man.
- We find SIX SYNONYMS for the Word of God in **verse 7-9** along with a CHARACTERISTIC of the Word of God leading to SPECIFIC out workings...
 - 📖 PERFECT – COMPLETE will of God for faith and practise...
 - 📖 SURE – TRUSTWORTHY and can be dependent upon...
 - 📖 RIGHT – Teaches us what the RIGHT PATH is...
 - 📖 PURE – without any CORRUPTION of any kind; free from IMPURE of FALSE doctrine...
 - 📖 CLEAN – NOT leading to SIN, but rather to PROPER WORSHIP...
 - 📖 TRUE – corresponds with REALITY – reveals ULTIMATE REALITY...
 - 📖 RIGHTEOUSNESS – In all of its aspects it is JUST and teachings what is ACCEPTABLE before God...
- This then brings about: *Salvation; Wisdom; Joy; Understanding; True Worship; Longing...*

3) How IMPORTANT is the Bible?

- Jesus provides us with the PROPER PERSPECTIVE concerning God's HOLY WORD when He quotes the Mosaic Law in **Matt 4:4** (cf. **Deut 8:3**) – we cannot have LIFE without it...!
- If someone would say that the BIBLE is UNIMPORTANT, it is like saying that OXYGEN isn't all that important to breathe, or that FOOD and WATER should be given a minor role in our lives.
- Read again what the BIBLE says about it's importance:
 - **2 Pet 1:16-19** – It is more sure than any EXPERIENCE you will ever have...!
 - **2 Tim 3:14-15** – It teaches us how to be SAVED...!
 - **Luk 16:27-31** – It is more convicting than any SIGN...!
 - **Rom 10:17** – It is the FOUNDATION of all saving faith...!
- When we SUM UP all the things the Bible has to say about itself as God's Word, we see just how VITAL it is to the believer's life:
 - 📖 *We cannot understand the GOSPEL without it...*
 - 📖 *We cannot KNOW JESUS without it...*
 - 📖 *We cannot BECOME like JESUS without it...*
 - 📖 *We cannot be SANCTIFIED and PURIFIED without it...*
 - 📖 *We cannot be SAVED without it...*
 - 📖 *We cannot grow in HOLINESS without it...*
 - 📖 *We cannot LOVE our FELLOW BELIEVERS without it...*
 - 📖 *We cannot be EQUIPPED for every good work without it...*
 - 📖 *We have NO HOPE without it...*
- If any of these things are LACKING in a Christian's life, it is most probably because the PRESENCE of the BIBLE, GOD'S WORD, is LACKING in their HEARTS!

Conclusion:

- In all of life, your first response should be – *What does the BIBLE say about this...?*
- There should be a great REVERENCE in your heart for the Word of God, knowing it is THE words of God.
- Your STRIVING should be that in ALL OF LIFE you are SUBMITTING yourself evermore under the Word of God – not trying to BEND the WORD around WHAT YOU BELIEVE, but BENDING WHAT YOU BELIEVE around the BIBLE...
- You must evaluate ALL teachings and traditions against the BIBLE...!!
- **FOUR PRACTICAL IMPLICATINS of SOLA SCRIPTURA:**
 - 1) *Scripture is not one of many equal avenues of divine revelation from God.*
 - 2) *Scripture is not simply the primary revelation form God.*
 - 3) *Scripture is the only source for divine revelation, not all information.*
 - 4) *Secondary sources of authority are only good if they agree with Scripture.*

“Sola Gratia”
Salvation is by GRACE alone!
Putting the “AMAZING” back into Grace...!
Eph 2:1-10

Introduction:

• The **TRUTH** that the Reformation recaptured regarding the Gospel and Salvation is that:

*According to the **SCRIPTURES** alone, **SALVATION** is by **GRACE** alone, through **FAITH**, alone, in **CHRIST** alone, to the **GLORY OF GOD** alone.*

- Having looked at *Sola Scriptura*, the **SCRIPTURE** alone, we turn our attention now to *Sola Gratia*
- *Sola Gratia*, salvation by **GRACE ALONE**, means that our salvation from the wrath of God – our deliverance from hell – is because of **SOMETHING GOOD IN GOD** and not because of **ANYTHING GOOD IS US**.
- This teaches us **TWO THINGS** about *grace*:
 - 1) Grace means there is something good in God;
 - 2) Grace means there is nothing good in us.
- William Tyndale, the Bible translator, said this about salvation by **GRACE** alone: *“By **GRACE** (that is to say by favour) we are plucked out of Adam, the ground of all evil, and grafted into Christ, the root of all goodness. In Christ God loved us, the elect and chosen, before the world began, and reserved us unto the knowledge of His Son and of His holy Gospel; and, when the Gospel is preached to us, opens our hearts, and gives us **GRACE** to believe, and puts the Spirit of Christ in us; and we know Him as our Father most merciful, and consent to the law, and love it inwardly in our heart, and desire to fulfil it... The blood of Christ obtained all things for us from God.”*
- Grace defined then is: *“God’s sovereign, unmerited favour, underserved goodness that He gives to those who deserve His wrath, His punishment.”*

Study Points:

1) What do we DESERVE?

- To answer this question we need to understand what the **TRUE CONDITION OF MAN** is.
- Is man basically good or not?
- **Gen 6:5; Jer 17:9; Luk 18:18-19; Rom 3:9-20**
- Are we able to choose to do good if we want to?
- **Jer 13:23; Eph 2:1-3; Tit 3:3**
- What then do we deserve?
- **Rom 6:23; Eph 2:3**
- There is **NOTHING IN US WORTH SAVING!**
- There is **NOTHING WE CAN DO TO SAVE OURSELVES!**

2) What does God GIVE?

- To start answering this question we need to understand what the **NATURE OF GOD** is!
- **Exo 34:6**
- Grace is part of the character of God.
- We need to understand the connection between **MERCY** and **GRACE**:
 - *Mercy* is when God **DOES NOT** give us what we **DESERVE** – **WITHOLDING** His **JUDGEMENT, ANGER** and **WRATH**...
 - *Grace* is where God **GIVES** us what we can **NEVER DESERVE**...!
- **ALL** people experience the **COMMON GRACE** of God – His goodness is given to all man and any good thing or joy that we may experience in this world is because of God’s grace.
- **Ps 145:9; Matt 5:44-45; Jam 1:17**
- Flowing from God’s common grace is then His **SAVING GRACE** – the **SOVEREIGN, UNDESERVED GOODNESS** that God gives to those who deserves His punishment and by which He **SAVES** people!
- Salvation starts with God and not with man – It is **GOD** who takes the **INITIATIVE** to save those whom He chooses.
- **Eph 2:4-9** – He is the One who grants them **GRACE** and **ENABLES** them to choose Him.

- This all is because there is something good in God which is the **REASON** for why He chose to save people.
- God the Father **CHOSE** whom He would save; Jesus came and **REDEEMED** those whom the Father chose; the Holy Spirit **APPLIES** Jesus' work of redemption to those whom the Father chose.
- **Tit 3:4-7**
- When it comes to **JUSTIFICATION**, being declared righteous, not guilty, **GRACE** stands **OPPOSED** to **WORKS**.
- **Rom 3:23-24**
- If there is anything that we can contribute to help God in declaring us righteous, it would not be of **GRACE** anymore, but because we then deserve something of it.
- Salvation is **ALL OF GRACE** and **NOTHING** of what we have done to make it possible...!
- What is so amazing about the saving grace of God is that **HE SAVES THE UNGODLY WHILE THEY ARE STILL UNGODLY...!**
- **Rom 4:5** – God saves people who **STOP TRYING** to save themselves and He saves them while they are **STILL UNGODLY!!**
- That is why salvation is **BY GRACE ALONE!!**
- Your own **MORAL** and **SPIRITUAL** state plays absolutely **NO QUALIFYING** role in you receiving the grace of God, otherwise it wouldn't be **GRACE!**
- *“Harry Ironside: In one of his sermons he spoke about a man who rose in a Sunday night service to give his testimony. Evidently, he magnified the grace of God, because afterwards a friend came to him with a comment: “You said a great deal about God’s part in your salvation. Why didn’t you say anything about your part?” The man paused for a moment said, “Please forgive me. My part was to run away from God as fast as I could. I kept running until he finally caught me.”*
- This further implies that **IF** God would then **RETRACT HIS “GRACE”** from you when you fail in some or other way, it wouldn't be grace anymore...!
- **We ARE SAVED by grace; we ARE BEING SAVED by grace; we WILL BE SAVED by grace...!**

3) What is the RESULT?

- You cannot receive the grace of God and **NOT BE CHANGED BY IT...!**
- When God **SAVES** someone, He saves them as they are and then He **SHAPES** them into whom He wants them to be.
- Where in **JUSTIFICATION**, **GRACE** stands opposed to **WORKS**, in **SANCTIFICATION**, **GRACE** is the **SOURCE** of our **GOOD WORKS** and **OBEDIENCE**.
- **GRACE** does not **IMPERIL** or **MINIMIZE** the **IMPORTANCE** of **GOOD WORKS** but is rather the **SOURCE** of it.
- Those whom God **SAVES**, he grants **REBIRTH**, **REGENERATION** by which they are **ENABLED**, **WILLING** and **DESIRE** to do those things that are pleasing to God – **GOOD WORKS!**
- **Eph 2:10; Tit 2:11-14**
- **LOVING, THANKFUL, JOYFUL** obedience to God stands as the result of the saving grace of God in someone's life!

Conclusion:

- Let us close with just a few **IMPLICATIONS OF GOD'S SAVING GRACE:**
- 1) God's grace **DESTROYS** all human **SELF-CONFIDENCE... 1 Cor 15:10**
- 2) God's grace **FREES** us from having to **WIN GOD'S FAVOUR... 1 Thess 1:2-4**
- 3) Because grace is **FREE**, you can never **REPAY** God for His grace – you are not **IN DEBT** with God, but rather **INDEBTED** to God... **Rom 6:23**. You **BELONG** to Him and simply need to obey Him...
- 4) Grace enables us to serve God **WITHOUT FEAR OF JUDGEMENT... 1 Joh 4:17-19**
- 5) God's grace takes the **PRESSURE OF IN WITNESSING... Acts 13:44-48**

“Sola Fide”

Salvation is by FAITH alone!

How can a man be made RIGHT with God...?

Rom 3:21-30

Introduction:

- We are busy with “*The 5 Solas*” which forms the foundation of Christianity:
- So far we looked at *Sola Scriptura* and *Sola Gratia*...
- In this study we will look at *Sola Fide* namely that Salvation is by **FAITH** alone.
- Remember what **Eph 2:8-9** says...
- The term **SALVATION** is a collective term for the work that God does when He saves someone.
- It is a **SUMMARY** term explaining the whole experience when someone becomes a Christian.
- Two experiences or spheres that form part of salvation are **REGENERATION** and **JUSTIFICATION**.
- Regeneration is about something that happens **INSIDE** of us and justification about something that happens **OUTSIDE** of us.
- **REGENERATION** is about being **BORN AGAIN**, receiving and having a **NEW NATURE!**
- **Eph 2:4-5; 2 Cor 5:17**
- **JUSTIFICATION** is about having a **RIGHT STANDING WITH GOD**, receiving and having a **NEW POSITION!**
- *Regeneration* is by **GRACE** alone...!
- *Justification* is through **FAITH** alone!
- Martin Luther said that “*this is the doctrine by which the church stands or fall.*”
- In his own life he was seeking for a way to have a right standing with God – he **DID** everything he could...
- Then he preached on **Rom 1:16-17**...
- The **WHOLE** Christian life is a **LIFE OF FAITH** – you **ENTER** into a relationship with Jesus Christ **THROUGH FAITH** and you **CONTINUE BY FAITH** every step of the way...!
RIGHTEOUSNESS, having a RIGHT STANDING with God, could never come by OUTWARD ACTS of OBEDIENCE or INWARD DISCIPLINES of the SOUL – it is through FAITH alone!
- Lets read **Rom 3:21-30**...
- **Verse 28** stands as one of the clearest verses in Scripture concerning this doctrine, this teaching...!

Study Points:

1) What do we mean by **JUSTIFICATION**?

- To “**justify**” means “to declare righteous”. It is a **COURT** term...
- It is to give the verdict that someone is **NOT GUILTY!**
- It is where, because of our faith in Jesus, God looks at us and **DECLARES** us **NOT QUILTY**, based on who Jesus is and what He has done and not because of anything we have done or will do...!
- Nothing you do or ever could do contributes to your justification.
- It is **ENTIRELY AN ACT OF GOD!!**
- *What happens in that moment that through faith you are **JUSTIFIED**?*
- **ALL YOUR SIN** is forgiven and dealt with in Jesus – **Rom 4:5-6; Ps 130:3-4**
- The **PERFECT LIFE OF JESUS**, His righteousness, is **IMPUTED** or **CREDITED** to our account – **2 Cor 5:21**
- Justification does **NOT** come from **WITHIN** us as a result of our good deeds, but from **OUTSIDE** us entirely – our **JUSTIFICATION** is completely outside of you and me and we contribute **NOTHING** to our justification...
God calls us; His Spirit draws us and regenerates us; He gives us faith to believe; He forgives us and He applies the righteousness of Jesus to us...!

2) What do we mean by **FAITH ALONE**?

- **Rom 3:28**
- We are justified by faith – simply **TRUSTING** in Jesus – and apart from any good thing we can do...!
- *Why is it that good works cannot save us?*
- **Ray Pritchard** gives **FIVE** very good reasons and explanations why our own “**good works**” cannot save us:

1. **Good works can't cancel your sin but sin ruins your good works.** Suppose you invite me over for breakfast one morning and offer to fix a three-egg omelette. As you begin to cook, I smell a putrid odour coming from the kitchen. What's that awful smell? Oh, it's just a rotten egg. But don't worry, I added a few good eggs that will cancel out the rottenness. Do you think I would eat your omelette? Not for a million dollars. Why? *Because goodness doesn't cancel rottenness but rottenness ruins goodness.*
 2. **Good works can't save you because God doesn't grade on a curve.** It is not enough that your good deeds outweigh your bad deeds. **GOD REQUIRES ABSOLUTE PERFECTION!!** (cf. **Matt 5:48**) **ONE SIN** is enough to send you to hell...! Even if you were able to limit yourself to sin only three times a day from the day you are born until you are 75, you would have sinned 82,125 times and deserve to go to hell every single one of those times...!
 3. **Good works can't save you because you can never be good enough long enough.**
 4. **You can never be sure you've done enough.**
 5. **Good works can't save you because if they could, you wouldn't need Jesus at all.** If we were able to save ourselves through our good works, then Jesus would have died a needless death...!
- We are justified by faith alone, by trusting in Jesus alone to make us righteous before God and not on **ANY** of our good works – *past, present or future.*
 - *What is saving faith?*
 - It is possible to believe in God, to believe in Jesus without having faith, saving faith...
 - **There are three dimensions to saving faith:**
 - 1) **Knowledge** – **KNOWING** about Jesus – who He is and what He has done.
 - 2) **Agreement** – **AGREEING** with what you know about Jesus – who He is and what He has done.
 - ~ Many people have these first two dimensions... even the **DEMONS** have these first two dimensions...! (Cf. **Jam 2:19**)
 - 3) **Personal trust** in Jesus as **YOUR** Saviour and Lord – to rest your full weight on Jesus, depend on Him alone – who He is and what He has done...going to heaven on the back of a crucified man. (cf. **Gal 2:20; Phil 3:7-9**)
 - ~ The faith that justifies is a **LIVING** faith, not an empty profession of faith.
 - ~ We are saved by faith alone, but not by faith that remains alone – true, saving faith is **SHOWN** by works of **LOVING OBEDIENCE**... **Gal 5:6; Rom 1:5.**
 - ~ That is what **Jam 2:14, 26** is talking about.
 - This is the **CRUCIAL DIFFERENCE** between **RELIGION** and **CHRISTIANITY** – its **TWO** letters versus **FOUR** letters...
 - You spell religion **D-O**: Religion is a list of things people think they have to do in order to be accepted by God - go to church, give money, keep the Ten Commandments, be baptized, pray every day. The list is endless...!
 - You spell Christianity **D-O-N-E**: Christianity is not based on what we do but upon what Jesus Christ has already done. If you want to go to heaven, you don't have to do anything; you just have to trust in what Jesus Christ has already done for you.

3) What is the **RESULT**?

- Having a perfect standing before God for all eternity not because of anything that I have done, but because of everything that **JESUS** has done...

*Ultimately, we **ARE** saved by **WORKS, NOT OUR OWN** but that of our **PERFECT SAVIOUR** in our place...!*

- **Rom 8:31-34**

- *Will my enemies condemn me? No, God justified me.*
- *Will my friends condemn me? No, God justified me.*
- *Will the demons condemn me? No, God justified me.*
- *Will Satan himself condemn me? No, God justified me.*
- *Will Jesus turn on me? No, he died for me.*
- *Will my sins rise up to condemn me? What sins? My sins are gone forever. My slate is wiped clean.*
- *Will my conscience condemn me and guilt overwhelms me? Maybe on earth, but not in heaven. Up there the record is clear forever.*
- *I'm justified. I am declared righteous in the eyes of God. I am acceptable to him on the basis of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ; and that wholly apart from my works; and only through faith in Jesus Christ.*

Best of all ... God is not confused by my confusion. He does not doubt because I doubt. He is fully satisfied with Jesus. And I have put my faith in Jesus. Therefore God is satisfied with me. I'm justified.

Conclusion:

- Have you been **JUSTIFIED** by faith in Jesus? Do you have a **RIGHT STANDING** with **GOD**?

The 5 Solas (Part 4 of 5)

“Solus Christus”

Salvation is in **CHRIST** alone!

There is ONE Mediator between God and man...!

1 Tim 2:5

Introduction:

- We are busy with “*The 5 Solas*” which forms the foundation of Christianity:
- So far we looked at *Sola Scriptura*, *Sola Gratia* and *Sola Fide*...
- In this study we will look at *Solus Christus* namely that Salvation is in **CHRIST** alone.
- *Did you ever enjoy doing MAZES...?*
- The interesting thing about these mazes is that they are developed with only **ONE** right answer, one **RIGHT** way to actually get through the maze.
- There are many things like this in the world – things that have only **ONE** right answer...
- We call them **ABSOLUTE TRUTHS** – things that are **ABSOLUTELY TRUE**, **ALL** of the time.
- When it comes to **RELIGION** though and how people are saved and will get to heaven one day, then all of a sudden people want to throw away absolute truths – they want us to be **TOLERANT**...
- The **BIBLE** is not tolerant about **HOW** we are saved – the Bible is very clear about that and that is what these **SOLAS** are all about...
- The most controversial **SOLA** which the Bible is **VERY** clear about is this one – that salvation is possible in **CHRIST** alone – that He is not **A** way to be saved but **THE** way to be saved...!

There is NO SALVATION possible APART from JESUS...!

Study Points:

1) Is Jesus **REALLY** the only way to be saved?

- *What does the Bible say?* – *Sola Scriptura*...
- This is what the Gospels say, specifically Jesus Himself, in the **I AM** Statements of Jesus in the Gospel of John: **Joh 6:35; 8:12; 10:9; 10:11; 11:25; 14:6; 15:5** – specifically **10:9** and **14:6**
- Jesus made these **EXCLUSIVE** statements about Himself and how someone are to be saved **THROUGH HIM!**
- In the book of Acts when then also have the following very clear statement given by the apostle Peter and John namely **Acts 4:10-12**
- The apostle Paul then also makes this very clear statement about Jesus in **1 Tim 2:5-6**
- Jesus is the **ONLY MEDIATOR** – a mediator is a go between, someone who is needed to bring about the **RESTORING** of a situation or relationship.
- That is what God did in and through Jesus – **Col 1:19-22**

2) **WHY** is Jesus the only **ONE** who can save us?

2.1 Because of His **PERSON** - **WHO HE IS!**

- Jesus is **FULLY** God and **FULLY** man!
- This is one of the **DEEPEST** and most **PROFOUND TRUTHS** and **MYSTERIES** of the **BIBLE!**
- He is **ONE PERSON** with **TWO NATURES** – these natures are not *mixed, confused, separated* or *divided*.
- *He is FULLY GOD:*
 - The announcement of His **BIRTH** was the He will be “**God with us**” – **Matt 1:23** (cf. **Isa 9:6**)
 - The **WORD** who **WAS** with God and **IS** God and became **FLESH** to **DECLARE** and **REVEAL** God to us – **Joh 1:1, 14, 18**

- The most **INCREDIBLE I AM** statement of Jesus is found in – **Joh 8:58** (cf. **Exo 3:13-14**)
- This is the testimony of Paul in **Col 1:19; 2:9**
- Jesus **WAS** from the beginning and He was God and then He **BECAME** man – he took on a **NEW NATURE** to His **ALREADY EXISTING NATURE** – He added another nature to Himself and **BECAME** something that He **NEVER** was before – **MAN...!** (**Phil 2:6**)
- *He is FULLY MAN:*
 - He was **BORN** like us – **Luk 2:7** (cf. **Isa 9:6**)
 - He **GREW** and **MATURED** like us – **Luk 2:40**
 - He **LEARNED** just like us – **Luk 2:52**
 - He got **HUNGRY** and **TIRED** – **Joh 4:6**
 - He was **TROUBLED** and **CRIED** like us – **Joh 11:33-35**
 - **Heb 2:14** = NB!!
 - He was **TEMPTED** like us, **YET** He did not sin – **Heb 2:18; 4:15**
 - This was necessary so that He could be our **REPRESENTATIVE OBEDIENCE** (cf. **Rom 5:18-19**) and **SUBSTITUTE SACRIFICE** (cf. **Heb 2:16-17**) and also to be our **EXAMPLE** and **PATTERN** of **LIFE**. (cf. **1 Joh 2:6**)

2.2 Because of His WORK – what He has DONE and is still DOING!

- Throughout the Old Testament God used **MEDIATORS** to deal with His people and specifically **THREE OFFICES**:
 - **Prophets** – they **SPOKE** to the people on **BEHALF** of God;
 - **Priests** – they **INTERCEDED** for the people **WITH** God – spoke to God on behalf of the people;
 - **Kings** – they were to **RULE** God’s people on **HIS** behalf.
- **JESUS IS OUR PROPHET** – **Heb 1:1; Joh 1:18; Deut 18:15-19**
- **JESUS IS OUR PRIEST** – **Heb 5:1-10; 10:11-14**
- **JESUS IS OUR KING** – **Heb 12:1-2; Eph 1:20-23**
- Jesus **LIVED** the **LIFE** we could **NEVER** live; He **DIED** the **DEATH** we were **SUPPOSED** to **DIE**; He **ROSE** to be the **PRE-EMINENT** in **EVERYTHING** and to **GAURANTEE** our resurrection; He **ASCENDED** and is now **REIGNING** over us!
- Even **RIGHT NOW**, Jesus is the One who is **INTERCEDING** for us with the Father. This is His **CONTINUAL** and **LOVING MINISTRY** that He has for His **BODY**, His **SHEEP**, His **CHURCH...!**
- **Heb 7:25; Rom 8:34**
- Jesus is **THE MEDIATOR** between us and God, **NOW** and **FOREVER...** We will **ALWAYS** be in need for Jesus to **MEDIATE** between us and God – the only reason why you and I will be able to be and heaven and stay there is because of **JESUS...**

*What is the **DIFFERENCE** between **HELL** and **HEAVEN**? **HEAVEN** is being in the **PRESENCE** of God **WITH** a **MEDIATOR**. **HELL** is being in the **PRESENCE** of God **WITHOUT** a **MEDIATOR**!*

Conclusion:

- There is a bumper sticker that says, *“If Jesus is the answer, what is the question?”*
- That is a **GOOD QUESTION...**
- Here are a few questions to which Jesus and He alone is the answer:
 - *How can I find God? Jesus is the answer.*
 - *How can I find peace? Jesus is the answer.*
 - *Who can forgive my sins? Jesus is the answer.*
 - *Who can give me new life? Jesus is the answer.*
 - *Who can open the door to heaven? Jesus is the answer.*
 - *How can I get rid of my guilt? Jesus is the answer.*
 - *Who can save a sinner like me? Jesus is the answer.*
 - *Who can put my life together again? Jesus is the answer.*
- Jesus is indeed the **ANSWER** to the **DEEPEST** questions of life!!
- Do **YOU** know **JESUS...**?

*What are the **PRACTICAL** implications of “**SOLUS CHRISTUS**”?*

- 1) *We can have **FULL CONFIDENCE** in Jesus and what He has **ACCOMPLISHED** on our behalf through His **PERFECT LIFE** and **ATONING DEATH**. We need not concern ourselves with our won works, wondering if we had done **ENOUGH** to justify us.*

- 2) We must **DISTRUST** any and all supposed “**MEDIATORS**” who claim to do what **JESUS** has already done. Any expectation that someone after Jesus still **NEEDED**, when the **ONE** and **ONLY** Son of God has atoned for our sin, is pure **DECEPTION**.
- 3) We can have **FULL ASSURANCE** that **EVERYTHING** required to **RECONCILE** us to God has been **ACCOMPLISHED** in Jesus. Nothing more is needed. Who could **POSSIBLY ADD** to or **COMPLETE** what God’s **PERFECT SON** has already accomplished “**once for all?**”
- 4) An understanding of Christ as the **ONLY WAY** should **MOTIVATE** Christians to **FAITHFULLY** witness this salvation to a fallen world. We must regain the sense of **URGENCY** regarding the Gospel that people who die **APART** from **JESUS CHRIST** are **ETERNALLY LOST!** If we who are saved do **NOT** share the message, **WHO WILL...?**

The 5 Solas (Part 5 of 5)

“Soli Deo Gloria”

Salvation is to the GLORY of God alone!

THE driving force behind EVERYTHING that God is doing...!

Isa 42:8; 1 Cor 10:31

Introduction:

- James M. Boice: “*Without these five confessional statements – Scripture alone, Christ alone, grace alone, faith alone and glory alone – we do not have a true church and certainly not one that will survive very long. For how can any church be a true and faithful church if it does not stand for Scripture alone, is not committed to a biblical gospel and does not exist for God’s glory? A church without these convictions has ceased to be a true church, whatever else it may be.*”
- As we come to the last *Sola*, we need to understand that **THIS Sola** draws the line between a **MAN** centred Gospel and a **GOD** centred Gospel.
- **The Man centred Gospel goes something like this:** God existed before anything was and He was **LONELY** and therefore He created man in His own image so that He would have someone to relate with. The man He created sinned against Him and this was very **TROUBLING** for God. He however knew this was going to happen, because He looked into the future and saw what would happen, so He made a plan before He created everything that He would send His Son, Jesus, to die on a cross for the sins of man so that, if they would choose Him, He would forgive their sins and save them and provide a life for them in which they can be blessed and experience all the goodness of God. God is **STANDING AND WAITING** with great longing and **WISHING** that people would choose Him and He is so grateful that people would give Him a chance in their lives. This is so because **GOD WAS LONELY** and He **NEEDS** people...
- **The GOD centred Gospel goes like this:** God existed before anything was made and He needed **NOTHING** or **NO ONE**. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit existed in **PERFECT FELLOWSHIP**. God then decided to create the heavens and the earth to put **HIS GLORY** on display, His beauty and greatness, His holiness and all His perfections and therefore God created man in His own image so that man would be able to **KNOW** Him and **BEHOLD HIS GLORY**. The man He created sinned against God and God knew this would happen according to His plan and counsel and will which He has planned even before the creation of the earth to **PUT HIS GLORY ON DISPLAY!** He therefore **FOREKNEW** what would happen because He **PLANNED** it. Therefore, He send His only begotten Son, Jesus, to come and die for the sins of those that He would save, those that He would call to Himself and grant them salvation through the grace alone and faith alone that He would give them as a gift in Christ alone according to His Word alone so that those whom He would save, He would save them as a testimony and display of **HIS GLORY ALONE!**
Man EXIST for GOD so that He can DISPLAY HIS GLORY in and through man and His dealings with man. MAN EXIST FOR GOD AND NOT GOD FOR MAN...!
- The purpose of **CREATION** and **ALL** of God’s dealings with His creation can be summed up in this one purpose statement: **HE DOES ALL OF THIS TO PUT HIS GLORY ON DISPLAY!!**
- **THIS is God’s agenda with the universe!**

- This is why the Westminster Shorter Catechism start with the first question: *What is the **HIGHEST** and **CHIEF** end of man?*
 - The answer: *To **GLORIFY GOD** and enjoy Him forever...!*
 - *Soli Deo Gloria* means that all things must be done to the **GLORY OF GOD ALONE!**
 - Salvation is **ALL** of God, it has been **ACCOMPLISHED** by God, it is for **GOD'S GLORY** that we must glorify Him **ALWAYS!**
 - We must live our entire lives:
 - 1) *Before the face of God;*
 - 2) *Under the authority of God;*
 - 3) *For the glory of God alone!*
 - This is the issue with **SIN**, namely that **ANYTHING** that is **NOT** done for the **GLORY** of God is **SIN...**
- Rom 3:23**
- This is what God **COMMANDS** of those whom He saved... **1 Cor 6:19-20; 10:31**

Study Points:

1) What do we mean by the “GLORY OF GOD”?

- The glory of God is the **HOLINESS** of God put on display.
- **Isa 6:3**
- God's holiness refers to His complete **SEPARATION** - from **SIN** but primarily from His **CREATION** – His complete **OTHERNESS**, that He is **ONE OF A KIND...**!
- **Isa 40:45:5-6, 14, 18; 46:9**
- We may define God's glory as: *The outward radiance of the beauty and the greatness of God's manifold perfections.*
- All created greatness and beauty comes from it and points to it, but such things do not comprehensively or adequately reveal or reproduce it.
- The glory of God is the **GOAL** of all things – to radiate the beauty and greatness of His many perfections.
- Therefore, God will **NOT** share His glory with **ANYONE** or **ANYTHING!!!**
- **Is 42:8; 48:11; Ps 115:1**

2) How does the GLORY OF GOD link up with SALVATION?

- One of the manifold perfections that is especially displayed through our salvation is: God's **GRACE!**
- This is **WHY** God saved us – to the **GLORY** of His **GRACE!**
- **Eph 1:6, 12, 14; Eph 2:4-7 – verse 7 = NB!!**
- Further He manifests His glory **THROUGH US** to a lost world.
- **Eph 2:10** linked up with **Matt 5:16**
- **1 Pet 2:9; Eph 3:8-10**
- This is **WHY** salvation is **ALL** of God so that **HE** and **HE ALONE** may get the **GLORY!**
- **1 Cor 1:30-31**
- The apostle Paul explains the gospel of God as it has been revealed to him in **Rom 1-11.**
- And the end of this great explanation he cannot but break into **PRAISE, DOXOLOGY** of God in **Rom 11:33-36.**

3) What should be our RESPONSE to the GLORY OF GOD?

- To **ENJOY** it! John Piper says: *“We were made to find our deepest pleasure in admiring the **GLORY OF GOD!**”* All our **HONOUR, PRAISE, ADORATION, AWE WONDER, REVERENCE, WORSHIP** belong to **GOD** and should be directed towards Him as we find great delight in Him!
- **Rom 12:1** – “this is your spiritual (reasonable) **WORSHIP**” ...!
- How should we worship this God of **GLORY?**
- **Heb 13:15-16**
 1. **CONTINUALLY...** everything we do should be an act of **WORSHIP!**
 2. **PRAISING** Him... **SPEAKING** about Him and **SINGING** before Him and unto Him!
 - a. **Col 3:16; Eph 5:18**
 - b. Charles Spurgeon: *“The priesthood of believers requires them to praise God with their lips. Should we not sing a great deal more than we do? Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs should abound in our homes. It is our duty to sing as much as possible; we should praise as much as we pray. "I have no voice!" saith one. Cultivate it till you have. "But mine is a cracked voice!" Ah, well! It may be cracked to human ears, and yet be melodious unto God.*

To him the music lies in the heart, not in the sound. Praise the Lord with song and psalm. Some few godly men whom I have known have gone about the fields and along the roads humming sacred songs continually. These are the troubadours and minstrels of our King. Happy profession! May more of us become such birds of Paradise!!'

3. **CONFESSING** His name... giving thanks to Him for everything in our lives and asserting and **AGREEING** that Jesus Christ is sufficient for us in all things!
4. Doing **GOOD WORKS**... putting **Matt 5:16** into practise! Living an **INTENTIONAL** life by **DOING** good so that people will see the life of Christ in me and in so doing bring **GLORY** to who He is and what He has done in me...!

Conclusion:

- Know and understand this – you exist for the **GLORY OF GOD!!**
- Banished to the isle of Patmos, John the apostle posed a pressing question with a glorious answer: *“Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your Name? For you alone are holy.”* (**Rev 15:4**) His answer in that same verse: *“All nations will come and worship You, for Your righteous acts have been revealed.”*
- We **WILL** all one day fall before Him in worship – **Isa 45:22-23; Phil 2:9-11**
- The question is – will you do it **NOW** joyfully or **THEN** under compulsion...?