

GREETINGS FROM GREENVINE



I was going through my drawer of notes this past week, which is always an adventure. I like to keep notes and sermons that have an effect on me and my thinking. I have a couple of file cabinets as well as one of the drawers of my desk full of what I considered at the time, “Important truths or papers.”

I found one that I haven’t looked at for quite a while and smiled to myself as I read it’s contents. It is a declaration of 5 truths that came out of the Protestant Reformation. So right off the bat you can imagine that it is contesting some of the doctrine that the Roman Catholic Church held as true, and it agrees with the 96 points that Martin Luther tacked to the Whittenburg Door as a rebellion to “Policy and Procedure” of the church that has relatively nothing to do with Holy Scripture.

The paper I found only has the following:

Sola Gratia

Sola Fide

Sola Christus

Sola Scriptura

Sola Deo Gloria

It is a simple reminder of what the early reformers took hold of and clung to as they tried to direct the church back to following the Bible and getting away from traditions that are contrary to the Word of God. It is a great reminder to us today of the simplicity of our Christian faith as well as putting together in a condensed form what we believe. The word **Sola** in Latin means “Alone.”

Sola Gratia is the truth of Grace Alone. It reminds us that we are saved by Grace alone.

Ephesians 2: 8 & 9 says, “**For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works so no one can boast.**” Our understanding of grace is that He, God, has given us something that we do not deserve, we cannot deserve, and we will never deserve. Gift is a good rendition of grace, except that normally we only give gifts to ones who we think deserve it. We give gifts at Christmas time and Birthdays. Sometimes special gifts at momentous occasions. Generally we only give gifts to those who are

especially in our hearts and minds. However, Scripture tells us that **“God commends His love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”** The gift of God, eternal life is given because of a benevolent, loving and gracious God. We trust in His ‘GRACE ALONE.’

Sola Fide is Faith Alone. The old hymn we sometimes sing is: “My faith has found a resting place, not in device nor creed. I trust the ever-living One, His wounds for me shall plead. I need no other argument, I need no other plea. It is enough that Jesus died and that He died for me.” **1 John 5: 4, “Everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.”** We trust the God of the Bible alone. Our faith in Him is what guarantees eternal life. **“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3: 16.** “FAITH ALONE.”

Sola Christus is Christ Alone. Our grace and our faith is wrapped up in the finished work of Jesus Christ at Calvary. The resurrection seals it all for us and His life now is the beginning of life eternal. All because He came to this earth and became the only sacrifice for your sin. Christ proclaimed to be “the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except by Me.” His pronouncement as to who He is. The only way, the absolute truth, eternal life. We sometimes sing the song, **“In Christ alone my hope is found.”** There is the great truth that without Christ we are lost and undone. With Christ we can do all things that the Father wants us to do. All because of Who He is. CHRIST ALONE.

Solo Scriptura is Scripture Alone. There is nothing that we need to add to the Bible. It is the inspired by God, Word. Paul tells **Timothy in 2 Timothy 3: 16 & 17, “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”** The Bible was written over a span of 1600 years, across 3 continents, by over 400 authors, in three languages, yet has one theme: The glory of God and the salvation of mankind through Christ alone. It has stood the test of time and war. Through those who want to destroy it, and kept alive by the Holy Spirit. Our canon of Scripture is the 39 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament preserved for us today to learn by it. No additional doctrines, beliefs or provisions need to be made. It stands alone by itself as SCRIPTURE ALONE.

Solas Deo Gloria means God's Glory alone. The overall theme of the Bible is God's dealing with mankind for His own glory. As we go through the Scriptures we see God's glory in creation. In forgiveness of sin. In leading His chosen earthly people, the Israelites to the Promised Land. The history of the Jewish nation. The provision of a Savior. Sins forgiven and living for Him for all eternity. All for His glory. Even the book of Revelation about end times is for His glory showing us how much He loves us and provides for us and how much He hates sin.

It contains the Rapture of the Church, the restoration of Israel and the defeat of Satan and his emissaries. Then followed by eternal bliss to the glory of God. All this happens for His glory.

Several of Paul's letters end with, **"To God alone be the glory forever. Amen."** GOD'S GLORY ALONE.

Busy week for me. A couple of Doctors appointments. A couple of Funerals and the regular Bible Studies and preparation for Sunday. Busy, but all in God's timing. Pray for me: I need the prayer and you need the practice. Blessings upon you all. Jack and Karen

Announcements

- Please remember to complete your information card for the directory.
- Wednesday Night Bible Study -Wednesday nights @ 6pm
- Men's Prayer Breakfast - Wednesday June 29, @ 7am
- Burton Bridge meal - Friday August 6 - Church serves and provides desserts
- Women's Ministry - 2nd Tuesday of each month @6pm - Next meeting August 10

Prayer Requests

Jack - Upcoming appointments for his wrist and his kidney stones. Also has appointment with Cardiologist
Jack's uncle, L.D. LaQuey passed away. Jack will be traveling to Dallas for the funeral Thursday July 15

Larry Pulliam - Recovering from knee surgery

Carol Witte - Home from the hospital recovering

Byron Rutland - Having issues with Diverticulitis - He is scheduled for surgery August 9, 2021

Dorothy and Ben's grandson Rinn is having more tests/procedures this week

Patty's Sister is home from the hospital recovering and able to be with her mom. Patty is traveling to Florida on Friday to visit her mom.

Debbie Reed - Doctor said her wrist is not broken but has lots of soft tissue damage. It will take 3-4 months to heal completely.

Becky's granddaughter Taylor who has Cystic Fibrosis and is having health issues

Cliff's father is home on hospice

Colin Smith - 18 yr old with a Traumatic Brain Injury. (Patient of Karens)

Gerri Smart's daughter Terri has been diagnosed with cancer. She has started her chemo treatments. Please pray for strength as she walks through this and prayers for Gerri as well as she she helps Terri through this process.

Joe Durrett - Stomach cancer and heart attack - home on hospice care

Ray and Bev Morris - Bev and been diagnosed with Alzheimers

Mandy Forester - Upcoming Brain surgery

Sandra Carson's daughter Candace is having some mental health issues

Bob & Sadie Easley - Health issues

Ed Ehring's sister Julie Robison is suffering from Alzheimer's.

Vicky Hoffman - legally blind but her eyes are getting worse

Prayers for those working in health related jobs, for protection. Especially those from our own families:
Karen at St Joseph - Susan - State School - Zella Johnson