

## **The Five Solas of the Protestant Reformation – October 31, 1517**

The Issues at the heart of the protestant reformation

### **Sola Scriptura – Scripture Alone**

### **Sola Christus – Christ Alone**

### **Sola Gratia – Grace Alone**

### **Sola Fide – Faith Alone**

### **Sola Deo Gloria – The Glory of God Alone**

- I. Sola Scriptura – Scripture Alone
  - a. This was the central issue of the reformation. What is the ultimate source of authority in the church? The pope of Rome, or the Scriptures of God? Final authority is the Word of God. Roman Catholic Church believed that the church was to be ruled by the Pope and that he was the true head of the church. The Reformers said absolutely no! What would rule the church... the Pope or the Word of God? 2 Timothy 3:16
- II. Sola Christus – Christ Alone
  - a. The Roman Catholic Church taught that salvation could only be found through the Roman Catholic Church, and that they stood alone between God and mankind. The Reformers rejected this notion, when stating that Christ alone dispensed salvation and is the only mediator between God and man. We need no other priest but He. Does Christ alone save us? Christ alone was the cry of the reformers!
    - i. Christ alone is the only mediator between men and God – 1 timothy 2:5
    - ii. Christ alone was the only savior from sin – Matthew 1:21, Acts 13:38-39
- III. Sola Gratia – Grace Alone
  - a. The Roman Catholic Church taught that works plus grace equaled salvation. That salvation was synergistic. Is salvation all the work of God? Salvation is by God's grace alone, entirely apart from human works. Grace cannot be earned or merited. Titus 2:11, Ephesians 2:5, Ephesians 2:8-9. Grace doesn't make salvation possible, it saves. Man supplies nothing, not even the faith that he believes does he supply. God saves man who is helpless. John 6:44. Grace alone saves sinners, God does all of the work.
- IV. Sola Fide – Faith Alone
  - a. The Roman Catholic Church taught that works plus faith together equal the means of salvation. Salvation is not by works, but by faith. Not trusting in what we have done, but by trusting in what Christ alone has done. Not faith and works, but faith alone. Romans 3:21-22.
- V. Sola Deo Gloria – The Glory of God Alone

- a. This follows naturally from the previous four. The Pope and the Roman Catholic Church were all about their own glory. The reformation brought about a new orientation. Man was dethroned, and God was enthroned in the minds of people. The glory was about God and that the salvation that He had accomplished. Man's chief end is to glorify God alone. Romans 11:36. God provided the lamb, not the priest. God showed kindness, it was not our merit. 1 Peter 4:11.

These five things are the essence of the Gospel, and we must never sacrifice one of them. Salvation is of the Lord. October 31<sup>st</sup>, remember, reflect, and rejoice in the reformation. Have nothing to do with the perverted holiday of Halloween.