

FIVE SOLAS ~ SOLI DEO GLORIA²

In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. "This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." (Luke 2:8-14)

*If I partake with thankfulness, why am I slandered concerning that for which I give thanks?
Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1Co 10:30-31)*

WLC 1 What is the chief and highest end of man?

A. Man's Chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him forever. (WLC 1:1 WCS)

Introductory

Soli Deo Gloria! Glory to God Alone! "S.D.G." We outlined the meaning of this phrase last time as an attribute of God Himself, the revelation of His majesty, and activity of creation in giving such or reflecting back to Him His glory. God's glory is seen in creation (especially man) and redemption (shining in the gospel, in new obedience, and in worship). We carry this forward now to SDG in the Church and in the World.

Glory to God Alone and the Church:

1. Worship in and to the glory of God alone. God's glory hidden in RC worship. Terry Johnson cites the restoration of the Word in the language of the people, worship in the language of the people, preaching holding prominence, praise from the congregation to God, sacraments restored to their simplicity, the work of the Spirit internally (especially prayer) over the external forms. In short, the shift from the clergy doing all of the worshipping to the people and the leader(s) all worshipping the King of glory.
2. Church government reformed as a body under Christ as Head, and not a vicar; Terry Johnson again – church government is conciliar (a plurality of leaders and not a hierarchy¹); is consensual (chosen by the flock and not sent down from the

¹ 12 Biblical Reasons Peter not the First Pope:

1. The same promises of the keys made to Peter in Matt. 16 are made to all the Apostolic leadership in Matt. 18.
2. Peter called the rock in Matt. 16 is entirely skipped over in the Luke 9 account.

hierarchy); is connectional (visible church has right of appeal to broader court – Acts 15).

3. The priesthood of all believers is what is at the center of the change in the church from Romanism to Protestant. This rightly removed the exclusivity of the priesthood to a select class of believers, and showed every believer his or her pedigree by grace. The church went from bondage to freedom, from darkness to knowledge, from a stance of imbecilic irresponsibility of trusting what the priest does in resacrificing the Savior of sinners, to one of calling by the triumphant Lord Himself to take up your cross and follow Him to glory.

Glory to God Alone and the World

1. The breakdown of the secular/sacred nonsense of the monastic movement.
2. All Christians are to live, not in themselves but in Christ and his neighbor; live in Christ by faith, live in your neighbor by love.
3. Restoration of the Christian Family
4. Restoration of the concept of vocation – thus culture and society affected
5. The glory of God in education, political order, social evils, economics and the poor, and the arts (T. Johnson). See Veith, pp 178-9

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3. Peter is called as well a Satan in Matt. 16 – no infallible leader.
 4. Peter makes the RC mistake of elevating men above Jesus eight days after the Matt. 16 account, when he would make a booth for Moses and Elijah with one for Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration.
 5. When the subsequent debate as to who the greatest among the Apostles would be, Peter was not chosen.
 6. The rock of the Church is confessing Christ, which was Peter's hope, and not trusting himself; no other foundation can be laid!
 7. Central to the Christian faith is the supernatural salvation through the Word of Christ revealed by the Father – not salvation by the church but by the Word (1 Peter 1-2).
 8. Peter is no pope but a shepherd, which means to teach, preach, and rule by serving, not by sitting on a throne (1 Peter 5).
 9. There is no special office above other ministers except that of apostle in Ephesians 4.
 10. No ordinary ongoing offices except that of the elder/pastor/overseer and the deacon in the pastoral epistles.
 11. When Judas died, there was a replacement as a witness to the life of Jesus, but none when James was martyred in Acts 12; no apostolic succession except the succession of faith in the gospel.
 12. The papacy is an antichrist, denying the centrality of the incarnate Jesus of Nazareth, and denying the 3 marks of a true church: preaching of the gospel, right administration of the sacraments, church discipline. The Roman Catholic Church has anathematized the gospel, idolized the sacraments, and carnalized the discipline of the church, persecuting those who believe the Bible.