

“The Great Transformation”
Soli Deo Gloria

Introduction:

1. So Far - In Our Series On The Reformation:
 - We Have Looked At 4 Of The Great, Transforming Truths:
 - That The Reformers Rediscovered From The Word Of God!
 - We’ve Looked At:
 - Scripture Alone:
 - Or - Sola Scriptura - And How God Used Men Like John Wycliffe To Bring The Scriptures Again To The Common People!
 - We’ve Also Looked At:
 - Faith Alone:
 - Or - Sola Fide - And How God Used Men Like Martin Luther To Rediscover And To Preach The True Gospel Of “Faith Alone” In Jesus Christ For Salvation!
 - We’ve Also Looked At:
 - Grace Alone:
 - Or - Sola Gratia - And How God Used Men Like Ulrich Zwingli Of Switzerland To Teach That: “We Are Saved By Grace Alone – Undeserved, Yet Freely Shown!”
 - Last Week - We Looked At:
 - Christ Alone:
 - Or - Solus Christus - And How God Used Men Like John Calvin To Point People To Jesus Christ - Who Alone Could Satisfy The Hunger & Thirst Of Their Souls!
2. Tonight - Our Focus Will Be On:
 - The Final “Sola” Of The Reformation:
 - Which Really Was:
 - The Central Theme For Every Reformer!
 - “Soli Deo Gloria” - Or - “For The Glory Of God Alone!”
 - When You Look At:
 - All 5 Of These Truths Together:
 - You Find That They Summarize The Gospel Itself!
 - The Gospel - And Justification Before God:
 - Is Found In “Scripture Alone” - By “Grace Alone” - Through “Faith Alone” - In “Christ Alone” - And It Is All Done - “For The Glory Of God Alone!”
3. We Learn From This:
 - That The Primary Purpose:
 - Of The Gospel Itself:
 - Is “For The Glory Of God Alone!”
 - Yes - Jesus Christ Came To “Seek And To Save That Which Was Lost!”
 - But - That Is A Secondary Purpose!
 - The Primary Purpose & Goal Of All Things:
 - Including Our Own Salvation:
 - Is For God’s Own Glory!
 - The Purpose Of Our Creation:
 - Is The Glory Of God!
 - Revelation 4:11 - “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created!”
 - The Purpose Of Our Redemption:
 - Is The Glory Of God!
 - Ephesians 1:5-6 - “Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, / To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved!”
 - In Fact - The Primary Reason We Are Even Here Tonight:
 - Is “That He Might Be Glorified!” (Isaiah 61:1-3)
 - “Soli Deo Gloria!”
- And So - Tonight - We Need To Learn:

1. **To Recognize The Glory Of God!**

- When We Come To The Bible:
 - We See That God Is A “Glorious” God!
- Glory Describes:
 - **What God Is!**
 - Psalm 24:7-10 - “Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. / Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. / Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. / Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!”
 - Five Times, The Lord Jehovah Is Called:
 - The “King Of Glory!”
- Glory Describes:
 - **What God Has!**
 - Psalm 72:19 - “And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory; Amen, and Amen!”
 - We Could Apply This To Everything We Know About God As Well!
 - After All, A “Name” In The Bible Often Represents Everything You Know About That Person!
 - But - What Is God’s Glory?
 - The Bible Often Describes God’s Glory:
 - As A Visible Manifestation / Display Of Himself!
 - “God’s Glory Is The Outward Radiance Of The Intrinsic Beauty And Greatness Of His Manifold Perfections!” (John Piper)
- Glory Describes:
 - **What God Does!**
 - Isaiah 60:7 Describes What The Lord Will Do In His Future Kingdom:
 - “I will glorify the house of my glory!”
- God Is A God Of Great Glory!
 - Do You See & Recognize:
 - The Glory Of God:
 - In Your Own Life?
 - Everything God Is!
 - Everything God Has!
 - Everything God Does!
 - Is Glorious!
 - And Listen To What God Says:
 - About His Glory!
 - Isaiah 42:8 - “I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another!”
- God Is Jealous & Zealous For His Glory!

* And This Is Something That Another Reformer Recognized When God Showed Him His Glory, Through The Gospel Of Jesus Christ!

- The Name Of This Reformer Is:
 - John Knox!
 - John Knox’s Life Was Transformed When He Met Jesus Christ, Who Is “The Brightness Of [God’s] Glory!” (Hebrews 1:3)
- I’d Like To Share A Bit Of John Knox’s Life, Drawn From Two Articles By David Murray & Austin Tucker (Lessons From John Knox - David P. Murray) (John Knox: Bold Reformation Preacher - Austin B. Tucker)
 - I Will Also Illustrate His Life From Some Images From The Internet, As Well As Some Of Our Own Photos From Our Trip To Scotland Last Year (2016)!

* There was once an American boy who opened an old book, and found in it a postcard with a picture *a little paving stone* in Edinburgh. It had the initials of John Knox, and is believed to mark the location of his grave. It is in the middle of a parking lot in Edinburgh. The boy asked his dad, “How come there’s no monument to John Knox, where he died?” His father said, “Scotland didn’t erect a monument to John Knox, son, because Scotland is his monument.”

This Is What It Looks Like Today!

Nobody is quite sure when John Knox was born, but sometime in the early 1500's, it is reckoned. The Scotland of that day was a land of great ignorance, not just of religious things, but of all things. They were a largely uneducated nation, ignorant of the Scriptures and of the power of God, especially. And therefore, a very superstitious nation. And of course, along with ignorance and superstition there always goes immorality; and that was especially true in the professing church of the day. It was a church dominated by ignorance amongst the clergy, immorality amongst the clergy, superstition amongst the clergy; there was very little preaching, there was patronage, and the people in general were wholly dissatisfied with the church of the day. It was a church in dire need of thorough, root and branch, top to bottom reformation.

The first figure that God raised up was a young man named **Patrick Hamilton**, a student of Luther, who came to Scotland and preached the Gospel of God's grace, which had long lain covered by layer upon layer of error and superstition. And for his faithfulness he was burned at the stake in 1528, at the age of 24.

Burned Outside The Front Entrance To St. Salvator's Chapel In St. Andrews!

Marked By His Initials In Stone!

Memorial Plaque - "The Initials On The Pavement Nearby Mark The Spot Where Patrick Hamilton, Member Of The University, Was Burned At The Stake On 29 February 1528 At The Age Of 24. On The Continent He Had Been Greatly Influenced By Martin Luther, And On His Return To St. Andrews He Began To Teach Lutheran Doctrines. Having Been Tried And Found Guilty Of Heresy, He Was Condemned To Death, Thus Becoming The First Martyr Of The Scottish Reformation!"

The next man God raised up in Scotland was a man called **George Wishart**. Again, a preacher of the Gospel of Grace, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And to this man John Knox became a bodyguard! [John would carry a two-handed broad-sword, even though Church law forbade priests to carry a weapon! But Knox was already disgusted with Rome, and was committed to reforming Scotland. For five weeks Wishart and his bodyguards spent each night in a different house to avoid arrest. Knox was willing to die with the reformer, but when Wishart could no longer elude his pursuers, he sent Knox away, saying, "Nay, return to your bairns [children] and God bless you. One is sufficient for a sacrifice."]

And so, once again for his faithfulness to Christ, George Wishart was burned as a heretic in 1546. And as the torch was put to the pyre, he cried out to the people, "This flame hath scorched my body, but it has not daunted my spirit." And it was that testimony that had a huge influence on John Knox himself, and he seems to trace a change in his whole spiritual condition to that date, and days around it.

[A few weeks later, a band of Protestants set out to revenge Wishart. They raided St. Andrew's Castle and killed Cardinal Beaton. Though Knox did not share in that raid, he soon shared the blame by moving into the castle as teacher to children of the rebels. He was indeed in total sympathy with their deeds, as he would later record in his History of the Reformation. Detailing the assassination of the cardinal and the desecration of his body, Knox inserted, "These things we write merrily." Those were violent times – especially in Scotland!]

Memorial Plaque - "George Wishard, 1513-1546 - A Powerful Protestant Preacher, He Was Betrayed To Cardinal Beaton, Brought Here, Put In The Sea Tower, Condemned For Heresy And Burnt At The Stake On 1 March. The Lettering G W On The Roadway Marks Where He Died. His Friends Conspired Against The Cardinal, And On 26 May Gained Entry To The Castle, Killed Him, And Hung His Body From The Battlements. Then Together In The Castle They Created The First Congregation Of The Protestant Church In Scotland!"

Marked By His Initials In Stone!

In Front Of St. Andrews Castle - Which Was The Home Of The Cardinal.

[The rebel force in the castle grew to about two hundred. One day a Romanist named Arnaud debated in the chapel and spoke of the Roman Catholic Church as the spouse of Christ. Knox interrupted the speaker from the audience to say Rome was no spouse but a harlot. He challenged the Romanist to debate him on that subject. Though Arnaud refused, the congregation insisted that Knox express his views in a sermon on the next Sunday!]

His reaction to this public call into the ministry was to burst into tears, and to withdraw from the assembly, and to isolate himself in prayer and meditation for days, before in all humility assuming this greatest of tasks, to be a preacher of the Gospel in a persecuting world.

His ministry in St Andrews began with a sermon on Daniel 7, A sermon which set the tone for his whole ministry. A sermon which more clearly than any sermon before, set forth the evils of Roman Catholicism. He cried out, “No pope, no purgatory, no prayers for the dead, no mass, no saints, no bishops, in Scotland.” [He preached that justification is by faith alone and not by any works of human righteousness. The reception of this first sermon convinced him that he had God’s call to preach. He never doubted it again.]

[The French fleet came in July 1547 to retake the castle. The defenders surrendered. Knox and one hundred twenty other captives were sentenced to be **Galley Slaves**. They were chained to a rowing bench twenty-four/seven with a daily ration of one ship’s biscuit and water. It was sometimes as little as three ounces of food daily. Every three weeks they were afforded a little vegetable soup. Knox was thirty-three years old and in robust health when he began. Lesser men did not survive.]

[Two of the most-often told episodes in the life of Knox come from these nineteen months of cruel bondage. Once a priest presented the slaves with a painted image of the Virgin Mary to kiss. Knox begged to be excused saying “Trouble me not. Such an idol is accursed, and therefore I will not touch it.” They violently forced the icon into his hands and pushed it to his face. He tossed it overboard, saying: “Let our Lady now save herself. She is light enough; let her learn to swim.” The other incident happened while they were anchored in sight of the spire of St. Andrews parish church where he preached his first sermon. His companions thought he was near death. A fellow slave asked him if he thought he would ever see that chapel again. He answered: “By the grace of God, I will yet again preach there.” [Knox said little about his time in the galleys, but two words that he did use to describe it were: "torment" and "affliction." During his time in the galleys, he contracted a kidney infection and stomach ulcers, which afflicted him for the rest of his life.] Knox regained his freedom in 1549.]

When he was released, and he went to England where there was greater liberty at that time, to preach the Word. He was there for five years, as a licensed preacher of the Gospel. However, as it happened to John Knox, wherever he went, persecution soon followed, and especially in 1553 when Queen Mary came to the throne of England, and began to imprison Protestant, after Protestant, after Protestant. **John Knox went to Geneva**, where he became friends with & studied under John Calvin for about five or six years.

But in 1559 John Knox returned to Scotland to restore of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a godless land. Not long after, Reformed religion became the religion of the land, so much so, that in 1560 a Parliament was called, and that Parliament decided to make the Reformed religion of Christ the only true and holy religion of the land, and that only the Reformed Church of Scotland was to be the church of the land.

St. Giles Cathedral In Edinburgh!

St. Giles Cathedral In Edinburgh!

John Knox died in 1572, after a long illness, and much weakness. His latter days were taking up with asking people to read him continually from John 17, Isaiah 53, the Psalms of David, and Calvin’s sermons on Ephesians. [As the end of his life neared, Knox said to his wife, “Go, read where I cast my first anchor!” She needed no more explicit directions to find and read John 17, including especially those words of verse 3 “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.”]

So, as John Knox lived in faith, so he died in faith.

Earl Morton at Knox’s funeral pointed to his grave and said, “There lies a man who never feared the face of any man”. Was that not the secret of his great success? He feared nobody. Nobody. When he was addressing Mary Queen of Scots, and debating with her, it was said to him that his language was discourteous, and that he shouldn’t argue with the Queen. His response was, “It is no more privilege of the rich and the powerful, than of the common people, to offend God’s majesty”.

Mary Queen of Scots said of John Knox’s imprecatory prayers, (prayers that called down the curses of God on false religion and the promoters of it), “I fear these prayers more than all the assembled armies of Europe.”

The diarist Johnson said of Knox, “He was one of the Reformation ruffians”. Another described him as, “The thundering Scot.” Oh, for more Reformation ruffians. Oh, for more thundering Scots. Nobody’s calling for rudeness, or discourtesy, but Oh where is our fear of God, compared to our fear of man? How are we so reticent to address the sins of the day? Because we’re afraid of the sinners of the day! Who do we fear most – God or man?

John Knox was truly a man who recognized the Glory Of God – and it changed him from the inside out!

And This Leads To Our Second Point:

- As John Knox Did - We Also Need:

2. ***To Respond To The Glory Of God!***

- How Do We Respond:

- To The Glory Of God?

- We Glorify God In Return!

- Key Verse - 1 Corinthians 10:31 - "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God!"

- In Fact:

- Glorifying God Is Such An Important Theme:

- Throughout The Bible:

- That It Can Be & Ought To Be Considered The Primary Purpose Of Our Lives!

- In The Words Of John McArthur:

- You Need To - "Aim Your Life At The Glory Of God!"

- Lets Turn Over To One Passage:

- That Will Show Us How We Can Respond To The Glory Of God!

- In Isaiah 25:1-5 - We Find A Song Of Praise To The Lord For His Redemption - "O LORD, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth. / 2 For thou hast made of a city an heap; of a defenced city a ruin: a palace of strangers to be no city; it shall never be built. / 3 Therefore shall the strong people glorify thee, the city of the terrible nations shall fear thee. / 4 For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall. / 5 Thou shalt bring down the noise of strangers, as the heat in a dry place; even the heat with the shadow of a cloud: the branch of the terrible ones shall be brought low!"

- Let's Look At These Verses More Closely!

- How Does God Display His Glory?

- In Verse 1:

- Through The "Wonderful Things" He Has Done!

- Through His Counsels!

- Through His Faithfulness!

- Through His Truth!

- In Verse 2:

- Through His Power!

- Through His Judgment!

- In Verse 4:

- Through His Strength!

- To The Poor!

- To The Needy In His Distress!

- Through His Defense!

- A Refuge From The Storm!

- A Shadow From The Heat!

- All Of These Are God's Attributes / Characteristics:

- On Display To Us!

- And Whenever You See Them:

- You Are Seeing Part Of The Glory Of God!

- How Should We Respond?

- By Glorifying Him!

- By Letting The Weight Of God's Glory Impact Our Minds / Our Hearts / Our Lives!

- The Light Of God's Glory:

- Ought To Transform Us!

- So We In Turn Can Glorify Him!

- How Does God Receive Glory From Us?

- In Verse 1:

- Through Personal Commitment!

- "Thou Art My God!"

- Through Personal Exaltation!

- "I Will Exalt Thee!"

- I Will Put You In Your Proper Place In My Life!
- Through Personal Praise!
 - “I Will Praise Thy Name!”
 - An Outward, Verbal Expression Of What Has Really Impressed You About The Lord!
 - In Song! In Testimony!
- In Verse 3:
 - Through Personal Fear!
 - “The City Of The Terrible Nations Shall Fear Thee!”
- All Of These Are Elements:
 - Of Glorifying God!
 - And Most Of Them Cannot Be Singled Out, But Happen Altogether At The Same Time!
 - So - Glorifying God:
 - Is To Be A Comprehensive Thing!

Conclusion:

1. The Heartbeat Of The Reformation:
 - Was The “Glory Of God!”
 - And It Is What Caused John Knox:
 - To Fear Noone - But God Alone!
 - And This Ought To Be:
 - The Heartbeat Of Every Christian!
 - Even As David Wrote In Psalm 115:1 - “Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory!”
 - Are You Aiming Your Life At The Glory Of God Today?
 - In Everything You Do?
2. This Truth:
 - “Soli Deo Gloria” - Is Not Something That Will:
 - Merely **Reform** Your Life!
 - Like All The Other Truths:
 - We Have Looked At:
 - It Will **Transform** Your Life:
 - And Transform Our Church!

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