

God's Glory Alone

Martin Luther: Soli Deo Gloria: To God Alone Be the Glory

When I first took upon me the defense of the Gospel, I remember a worthy man saying to me, "I like it, this doctrine you preach, because it gives glory and everything else to God alone, and nothing to man, for we cannot attribute too much glory, goodness, mercy, and so on to God." This greatly comforted and confirmed me. And it is true that the doctrine of the Gospel removes from mankind all glory, wisdom, righteousness, and so on and gives it solely to the Creator, who made everything out of nothing (Hebrews 11:3). (Commentary on Galatians 1:11-12).

Glory to God alone, also known as **Soli Deo gloria**, is one of the [Five Solas](#) of the Reformation meaning *all the glory is due to God alone*, since he did all the work — not only in the atonement of Christ, but even granting the faith which unites us to Christ and brings us into the salvation provided by his atonement. <https://www.theopedia.com/sola-scriptura>

Soli Deo Gloria! For the Glory of God Alone

The Reformation reclaimed the Scriptural teaching of the sovereignty of God over every aspect of the believer's life. All of life is to be lived to the glory of God. As the Westminster Shorter Catechism asks, "What is the chief end of man? Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever." This great and all-consuming purpose was emphasized by those in the 16th and 17th Centuries who sought to reform the church according to the Word of God. In contrast to the monastic division of life into sacred versus secular perpetuated by Roman Church, the reformers saw **all of life** to be lived under the Lordship of Christ. Every activity of the Christian is to be sanctified unto the glory of God.

As the Scripture says,

*Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God; Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father; to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. **For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.** (1co 10:31; 1Pe 4:11; Rev 1:6; 2pe 3:1; Eph 3:21; Rev 7:12; Rom 11:36)*

Good Shepherd Community Church

October 29, 2017 Evening Worship Guide

Worship Theme: Only God's Glory (Soli Deo Gloria)

Gathering and Call to Worship

Leader: "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." People: **Amen.**

Lift Up Your Hearts

People of God, from where does your help come?

Our help comes from Yahweh, Maker of heaven and earth!

Call to Worship

You who fear the LORD, praise Him; All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, and stand in awe of Him, all you descendants of Israel. For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; He also is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before Him, Strength and joy are in His place.

"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

Hymn – "Give Praise to God" (Boice/ Soli Deo)

Scripture chorus; "Let the Glory of the Endure Forever"

Invocation

Hymn – "Come, Praise and Glorify"

Hymn- "Unto God's Word We Turn Again"

Scripture Lessons

Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

"I have not departed from the commandment of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food." 1 Peter 4:11, Job 23:12

First Testament- Exodus 20:1-7

First Testament – Isaiah 48:1-11

Psalms 86:1-13

New Testament Letters- Revelation 5:11-14

New Testament Gospel – John 12:20-28; 13:31-32

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Hymns of God's Glorious Work in Salvation

I will praise the name of God with song and magnify Him with thanksgiving. Psalm 69:30

Hymn – “Though All of Our Life Like a Scroll”

Hymn- “Reformation Song- Your Word Alone Is Solid”

Hymn- “Reformation Hymn-Glory be, Glory be to God Alone”

Exposition of the Word

Scripture Text- Ephesians 3:14-21 cf Eph. 1:3-14

“to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen

Sermon- “God Alone Be Glorified” by Wayne Conrad

Hymn 543P “Sovereign Lord, We Sing Your Glory” – “

Offering

The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!” Psalm 50

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn- “Creator God, Our Sovereign Lord” cor meum tibi offero 8.8.8.8.6.

The Prayers of the People

A Prayer of Ulrich Zwingli

Almighty, eternal and merciful God, whose Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path, open and illuminate our minds, that we may purely and perfectly understand your Word and that our lives may be conformed to what we have rightly understood, that in nothing we may be displeasing unto your majesty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Hymn – “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

Benediction- *“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.*

From Zwingli's 67 Theses

That Christ is the sole mediator between us and God.

That God wants to give us all things in his name. It follows from this that we need no other mediator but him beyond the present time.

When we pray for one another here on earth, we do so in the confidence that all things are given us through Christ alone.

The Larger Catechism

1. What is the primary and highest purpose of human beings?

The primary and highest purpose of human beings is to glorify God¹ and to enjoy him completely forever.²

1. Rom 11.36, 1 Cor 10.31.

2. Ps 73.24-28, Jn 17.21-24.

WSC Q. 1. What is the chief end of man?

Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

Quote from John Calvin

Let us now see what is meant by the due worship of God. Its chief foundation is to acknowledge him to be, as he is, the only source of all virtue, justice, holiness, wisdom, truth, power, goodness, mercy, life, and salvation; in accordance with this, to ascribe and render to him the glory of all that is good, to seek all things in him alone, and in every want have recourse to him alone. Hence arises prayer, hence praise and thanksgiving – these being attestations to the glory which we attribute to him. This is that genuine sanctification of his name which he requires of us above all things. To this is united adoration, by which we manifest for him the reverence due to his greatness and excellency; and to this ceremonies are subservient, as helps or instruments, in order that, in the performance of divine worship, the body may be exercised at the same time as the soul.