

***Soli deo Gloria* – The Glory of God Alone vs. Other Religions (Isaiah 40-48)**

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Premise of this series: The “Five Sola’s” of the Reformation Must be the Central Truths of Christianity and Will Always Be the Key Issue With All Other Religions

Sola Scriptura – “Scripture Alone” is our authority, and its 66 books in the Old and New Testament are sufficient for salvation and all of life. All Scripture was given by verbal plenary inspiration of God, is infallible and inerrant and sufficient for all of life and godliness, and is the final arbiter in all disputes. Its authority is derived from its Author and not from the opinions of men. It is to be interpreted according to normal literal, historical, grammatical hermeneutics within its contexts (see website for more notes)

Sola Gratia – salvation is by “Grace Alone”, the unmerited, undeserved, unearned favor and kindness of God toward sinners. Salvation is not in any way or in any part produced or preserved by man’s works, will, effort, or anything inherent in man. Salvation is not by God’s grace *plus* any human achievement, but it’s solely by the sovereign grace of Divine accomplishment. God’s grace alone also preserves true believers so that they will persevere in the faith and will never finally fall away and abandon the faith. This “preservation of the saints” is also by God’s grace alone so that salvation is neither gained *nor maintained* by any human efforts. A Christian’s good works are the *result* of God’s good work begun in us.

Sola Fide – “Faith Alone” receives God’s gift of saving grace. Justification is not a process, but is a forensic (legal) declaration of righteousness at a point in time (saving faith), based on the Christ’s imputed righteousness and His merits and finished work rather than our own. True saving faith is accompanied by repentance, a recognition of the Lordship of Christ and His rightful rule and claims on our life, and a forsaking of sin.

Solus Christus – Christ Alone saves sinners by His perfect righteousness, life, death, and bodily resurrection for them. Christ alone is the church’s founder, head, builder, substitutionary atonement, and its only Redeemer, Mediator, Lord, Savior, Prophet, Priest, and King. As fully man while here on earth and always existing as fully God, co-Creator, co-eternal, and co-equal with the Father, Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life, and the only way to heaven.

Soli Deo Gloria – To God Alone Be Glory. Our chief aim is to glorify God, and this starts with knowing the right God in all His attributes - the One and Only God eternally existing in three Persons (co-equal as Father, Son, and Spirit) - and to love this God with all our heart, soul, and mind. In salvation and Christian living, God gets all of the glory; none to human works or merit.

Isaiah 40-48 is a key passage addressing false religions while uplifting God and His truth

1. **God is jealous for & driven by His glory:** 42:8, 12, 43:7, 20-21, 25, 44:23, 48:9, 11
Father’s glory shared with Son: Rev 5:12-13, Jn 8:54, 11:4, 12:23, 16:14, 17:1, 5
2. **“The First and the Last”:** Isaiah 41:4, 44:6, 48:12; Rev 1:17, 2:8, 22:13
3. **Other “gods” are not true or real:** Isaiah 41:23-24, 29; 1 Cor. 8:4-6
4. **One and Only God:** Isaiah 43:10, 44:6, 8, 45:5-6, 14, 18, 21-22, 46:5, 9; 9:6, 10:21
5. **Only Savior:** Isaiah 43:11, 45:21; Titus 1:3-4, 2:10, 13, 3:4-6
6. **Only Creator:** 44:24, 45:12, 18, 48:13, Heb 1:1-12, Col. 1:16-19, 2:9, John 1:1-3