

Glory to God Alone

Having come to the end of our month of reformation lessons, we must ask the question, “What was it all for? What was it all about? Why does the Reformation matter? If we look only at what happened, we will see events and actions that took place. If we look only at the whom, we see the individuals standing for or against certain practices or beliefs. Similarly the where and when point to the continent of Europe 500 years ago. While these all have their benefit, they are the least important questions to answer.

The importance of the Reformation does not lie in the progress made in human knowledge, advancements in science, education or literature. Nor does it lie in the amount of freedom and value of the individual that has become the hallmark of Western thought since its day. Even the cries of the imprisoned, tortured, burned and beheaded martyrs, a pile of ashes too great to sweep under the rug of reconciliation with Rome, even these do not give the Reformation its importance.

The reason for, importance of, and continued standing with the Reformation all come down to the most important of the five Sola's, Sola deo Gloria, To God alone be the glory. God alone deserves the glory for everything that has ever happened. From the first amazing sparks of creation to the simple act of the breath that we take, God alone is to be glorified. But when we look at the beauty and wonder of Gods redeeming of a sinner, there we see his attributes in full force. When the reformers fought for sola scriptura, it was because tradition was stealing glory from God. When they stood on grace and faith alone, it was because the merits and works of man were robbing Christ and his work on the cross of its sufficiency. The reformers did not stand for their own glory or monuments that they may be remembered throughout the ages, they stood for Gods glory, because he alone is worthy.

With Sola Scriptura showing us the truth of Sola Gratia being the only way that we can desire God, we can understand that we are reconciled by Sola Fide in the person and work of Sola Christos, all of these pointing to and directing us to the most important of truths, to God alone be the Glory, Sola Deo Gloria.

Isaiah 42:5-12a Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it:

6 "I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles,

7 To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house.

8 I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.

9 Behold, the former things have come to pass, And new things I declare; Before they spring forth I tell you of them."

10 Sing to the LORD a new song, And His praise from the ends of the earth, You who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, You coastlands and you inhabitants of them!

11 Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voice, The villages that Kedar inhabits. Let the inhabitants of Sela sing, Let them shout from the top of the mountains.

12 Let them give glory to the LORD,