

Introduction

If Scripture alone can be considered the foundation of truth upon which all of the *solas* stand, God's glory alone can be understood as the theological glue that holds them all together. More than being a purely theological or doctrinal matter, the glory of God is also incredibly practical for what it means for us to live as Christians. This doctrine addresses two key questions:

- (1) Who is the one who ultimately accomplishes our salvation?
- (2) What is the motive for our salvation?

Psa. 115:1—Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

Understanding Soli Deo Gloria

Soli Deo Gloria is the recognition that it is God alone who _____ His people and does so solely for the _____ of His great name!

What is meant by *glory*?

"*glory*"—δόξα (*doxa*)—The condition of being bright (*radiance or splendor*). The state of being magnificent (*greatness*). Honor or recognition of status for what one has accomplished (*fame or renown*).

Old Testament

Isa. 42:8—I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols

Psa. 29:1-2—¹ Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

² Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.

New Testament

Luke 2:14—"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Jude 1:25—to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

God's Glory and the *Solas*

1. _____ is the Word of God.

Matt. 4:4—Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

2. _____ is a gift of God by means of His Word.

Rom. 10:17—So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

3. _____ was sent of God to accomplish the work of salvation.

1 Tim. 2:5-6—⁵ For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,
⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

4. _____ is the unmerited favor of God.

Rom. 4:16-17—¹⁶ Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷ As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

God receives all of the glory for our salvation because He alone has _____ every aspect of it!

Romans 11:33-36

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

³⁴ “For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been his counselor?”

³⁵ “Or who has given a gift to him
that he might be repaid?”

³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Important Observations

- **When we consider the overall plan of salvation that Scripture reveals, we should be overwhelmed (11:33)**

“*depth*” - βάθος (*bathos*) — Used here in a nonphysical sense of something perceived to be so remote that it is difficult to assess.

⇒ His judgments (*decisions, decrees*) are unsearchable.

⇒ His ways (*conduct, actions*) are inscrutable (*incomprehensible, fathomless*).

- **We share this reverent, worshipful sense of bewilderment with those who have gone before us (11:33-34)**

1. _____:

Isa. 40:13 (LXX)—Who has known the mind of the Lord, and who has been his counselor to instruct him?

2. _____:

Job 35:7—If you are righteous, what do you give to him? Or what does he receive from your hand?

Job 40:11a—Who has first given to me, that I should repay him?

- **Worship is the only proper response of the people of God when we consider Him.**

“...*from Him*...” → All things _____ with the will of God.

“...*through Him*...” → All things are ultimately accomplished by the _____ of His will.

“...*to Him*...” → All things ultimately serve the _____ of God.

Heb. 12:1-2—¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Questions for reflection:

How can the glory of God motivate me in my daily life?

In what areas of my life am I tempted to keep glory for myself rather than giving it to God alone?