

Subject: *Here We Stand: Glory to God Alone*

Scripture: *Ephesians 1:1-14*

Everything God does is for His glory. God's two greatest works are creation and redemption. Creation is all for His glory.

Psalms 19:1 *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handywork.*

Revelation 4:10-11 ¹⁰ *The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,* ¹¹ *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

Just like creation, our salvation is all for God's glory.

Revelation 5:11-12 ¹¹ *And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;* ¹² *Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing.*

In Ephesians 1 Paul mentions the blessings of salvation and everything points to "the praise of His glory" (vs. 6, 12, 14).

Five "Solas" of the Reformation

- *Sola Scriptura* (Scripture Alone)
- *Solus Christus* (Christ Alone)
- *Sola Gratia* (Grace Alone)
- *Sola Fide* (Faith Alone)
- *Soli Deo Gloria* (For the Glory of God Alone)

God's glory is the supreme purpose of redemption. We tend to think primarily about what salvation does for us. But salvation is first of all something God does for Himself to bring Him glory. God is glorified in His plan to save sinners by grace through faith in His Son. He is glorified both in His desire to save us and in the plan by which He saves us.

1. Scripture alone brings glory to God

Scripture is a reflection of God Himself.

- Scripture glorifies God in *its authority*

When Scripture speaks, God speaks. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.

- Scripture glorifies God in *its accuracy*

We have no other guidebook to tell us about God and His plan of salvation.

- Scripture glorifies God in *its ability*

Scripture is able to make us wise unto salvation. It is the seed that produces new birth and new life. It is the milk and the meat that causes believers to grow. It is the truth that sanctifies us and keeps us from the world. Other books may educate us or inspire us, but only Scripture can change us. Spurgeon said: “It was God’s Word that made us; is it any wonder that His Word should sustain us?”

2. Christ alone brings glory to God

- Jesus glorifies God in *His incarnation*

Luke 2:13-14 ¹³ *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,* ¹⁴ *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

John 1:14 *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

- Christ glorifies God in *His crucifixion and resurrection*

3. Grace alone brings glory to God

- Grace glorifies God in *His provision of salvation*

Ephesians 2:8-10 ⁸ *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:* ⁹ *Not of works, lest any man should boast.* ¹⁰ *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.* We are not saved by good works or good morals, but by God’s free grace.

4. Faith alone brings glory to God

- Faith glorifies God in *His application of salvation*

We are saved by trusting in Christ and His finished work.

The Trinity is glorified in salvation. The Father planned it. The Son purchased it. And the Holy Spirit applies it to every believer. Salvation brings glory to God because it is His work from beginning to end. Salvation is of the Lord.

Romans 8:28-30 ²⁸ *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.* ²⁹ *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.* ³⁰ *Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.* No one is left along the way.