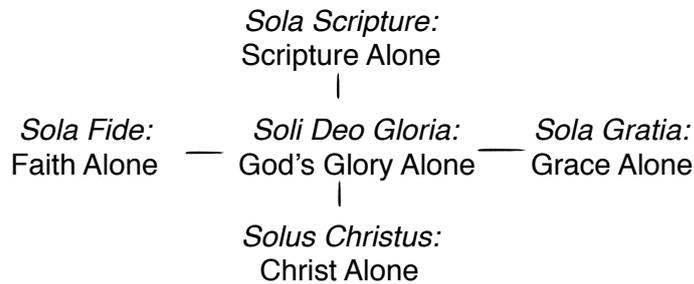


## Soli Deo Gloria: To God's Glory Alone

**Introduction:** What's in a *sola*?



### **I. The God of Glory**

“As clowns yearn to play Hamlet, so I have wanted to write a treatise on God.”

J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*

#### **- *God's personal glory***

1 Samuel 15:29

*He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a human being, that he should change his mind.”*

Ps 24:10

*Who is he, this King of glory? The Lord Almighty—he is the King of glory.*

Acts 7:2

*The God of Glory appeared to our Father Abraham*

#### **- *God's glory revealed and shared***

Creation: Psalm 19:1

*The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork*

Salvation: Leviticus 9:23 (see also: Ex 16:7-10, 24:16-17, 40:34-35; Num 14:10, 16:42)

*And Moses and Aaron went into the tent of meeting, and when they came out they blessed the people, and the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people.*

The Son: Hebrews 1:3

*He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature*

The gospel: 2 Corinthians 3:12-18

*Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

“God hath all life, glory goodness blessedness, in and of himself...nor deriving any glory from (his creatures), but only manifesting his own glory in, by, unto and upon them.”

- *Westminster Confession of Faith, 2.2*

“The ‘glory of the Lord’ is the splendour and brilliance that is inseparably associated with all of God’s attributes and his self-revelation in nature and grace, the glorious form in which he appears everywhere to his creatures.”

- Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics vol.II*

**Application:** A right orientation

## **II. Salvation: of and by God**

- i) The sovereign grace of the Father
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- ii) The glorious Son, the Redeemer (*cf John 1:14-18; 1 Cor 2:8; 2 Cor 4:4-6, John 12:27-32, 17:1*)

“It is not sufficient for anyone, and it does him no good, to recognise God in his glory and majesty, unless he recognises him in the humility and shame of the cross.”

- Martin Luther, *Heidelberg Disputation*, 1518

- iii) The sealing of the Spirit

## **III. All things: for God**

- i) Orientation in the age of the Self

- *Towards God*

- *Towards glory as defined in Scripture - cf 1 Cor 1, 2 Cor 3 etc*

- ii) The worship of the Church, gathered and scattered

- *God-centred as we gather: the Word, prayer and the sacraments*

- *To the glory of God as we scatter: "coram Deo" - 1 Cor 10:31*

"It is pure invention that pope, bishop, priests, and monks are called the spiritual estate...all Christians are truly of the spiritual estate, and there is no difference among them except that of office...Those who are now called "spiritual...are neither different from other Christians nor superior to them...A cobbler, a smith, a peasant - each has the work and office of his trade, and yet they are all alike consecrated priests and bishops. Further, everyone must benefit and serve every other by means of his own work."

- Martin Luther, *An Appeal*, 1520

iii) The hope of the Church

- *One degree of glory to another - 2 Cor 3:18*

- *Supreme glory in the future - Titus 2:13; Rom 8:18-21; 2 Cor 4:17*

**Conclusion:** The chief end of Man and the theme of Heaven

*Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might forever and ever!" And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.*

Revelation 5:11-14