

The Slogans of the Reformation

St Andrews Park Road Presbyterian Church
All-Church Adult Class
10.15.17

Here's Why We're Here Today:

Protest! | Why the Reformation Still Matters

"This October marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. We hope to look at some of the events, characters and ideas at the heart of this grace-revolution that continues to exert great influence in the world. For the five Sundays in October, five speakers will each present one topic as we attempt to see the crucial importance of the Reformation and its ongoing relevance today." (Are you still protesting?)

Where we've been:

Lecture One – Road to the Reformation (John Stevenson)

Lecture Two – The Spark That Lit Europe On Fire (Gordon)

What are the irreducible essentials of Christianity?

An (important aside): How many Christians ARE there? How many in Protest?

(see <http://www.pewforum.org/2011/12/19/global-christianity-exec/>)

The PRIMARY Slogans – The Five Sola (Solae) Statements

1. **Sola Scriptura – Scripture Alone is Our Final Authority in Matters of Faith/Practice**
Westminster Shorter Catechism Q 2 - **Q:** What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him? **A:** The word of God, which is contained in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.
 - a. **What? No creeds?**
 - b. **Any modern issues come to mind?**

2. **Sola Gratia – Salvation (Justification) is by Grace Alone**
 - a. **How different the words "only" and "mostly"**

 - b. **Consider Ephesian 2.1-3** - *And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.*

c. **Martin Luther's "breakthrough"** – "I was seized with the conviction that I must understand [Paul's] letter to the Romans ... but to that moment one phrase in chapter 1 stood in my way. I hated the idea, "in it the righteousness of God is revealed." ... I hated the righteous God who punishes sinners ...

At last, meditating day and night and by the mercy of God, I ... began to understand that the righteousness of God is that through which the righteous live by a gift of God, namely by faith. ... Here I felt as if I were entirely born again and had entered paradise itself through gates that had been flung open." —Martin Luther (Preface to Collected Works) **Bottom Line – God's righteousness is a requirement AND a gift (a declaration)**

3. Sola Fide – Justification (Grace) is Received By Faith Alone

a. **Faith as "the organ of reception"**

b. "Faith consists not in *doing* something but in *receiving* something. To say that we are justified by faith is just another way of saying that we are justified not in slightest measure by ourselves, but simply and solely by the One in whom our faith is reposed... faith means receiving something, not doing something or even being something... At bottom, faith is in one sense a very simple thing; it simply means that, abandoning the vain effort of earning one's way into God's presence, we accept the gift of salvation which Christ offers so full and free." (J. Gresham Machen, *What is Faith?* - 1925)

c. **Faith is passive (as the grass receives the rain) - Romans 4.4-6** *Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,⁶ just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works...*

4. Solus Christus – Christ is the Only Mediator Between God and People

a. **Can Protestants go directly to God without the intercession of a priest?**

b. **Luther's understanding of vocation and priesthood of all believers**

5. Soli Deo Gloria – our salvation and ALL things are for God's glory alone

a. **Ephesians 1.5-6** *He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.*

The SECONDARY Slogans

1. **“Ad Fontes”** (“To the Sources”)
2. **“Post Tenebras Lux”** (“after the darkness, light,” the motto of the Genevan Reformation)
3. **“Anfechtungen”** – Martin Luther’s deep sense of being undone before the holiness of God; deep anxiety of soul leading to Luther’s extreme attempts to be right with God
4. **“Iustus et simul peccator”** (Justified and at the same time sinful)
5. **“The Two Words”** – God has spoken two words to humanity – Law and Gospel and the MOST important thing Christians (and especially ministers) must do is to properly distinguish between the two
6. **“Alien Righteousness”** – God gifts or grants His righteousness to His people. We have a source of right standing before God that is from outside of us (NOT from our efforts or deeds)
7. **“Semper Reformanda”** (“*ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda*”) – the reformed church must always press on to new reform as we are conformed to the image of Christ by the Word and Spirit