

SERMON OUTLINE

Today we will investigate the Reformation doctrine of Sola Gratia by examining Jesus' teaching in John 6:25-59 in response to 5 questions asked of Him in Capernaum.

- I. When did you come here (v. 25)?
 - A. Jesus answers (vs. 26-27).
 - B. Explanatory Scripture (Isaiah 55:1-13).
God freely provides the food that leads to eternal life: grace upon grace!
- II. What must we do to be doing the works of God (v. 28)?
 - A. Jesus answers (v. 29).
 - B. Explanatory Scripture (John 1:1-18).
Salvation comes from the fullness of Christ, not by our works or will: grace upon grace!
- III. What sign will you do that we may know you are greater than Moses and believe in you (vs. 30-31)?
 - A. Jesus answers (vs. 32-33).
 - B. The people respond (v. 34).
 - C. Explanatory Scripture (1 Corinthians 1:18-31).
Salvation is provided by the power of God in the work of Christ, not the wisdom of man: grace upon grace!
 - D. Jesus teaches (vs. 35-40).
 - E. Explanatory Scripture (Romans 8:28-30).
Salvation is an unassailable work of God from beginning to end: grace upon grace!
- IV. We know you! How can you claim to be from God (vs. 41-42)?
 - A. Jesus teaches (vs. 43-51).
 - B. Explanatory Scripture (Jeremiah 31:31-34 & Ezekiel 36:22-27).
God alone provides everything required to be saved in His unbreakable, unconditional covenant: grace upon grace!
- V. How can you require us to eat your flesh and drink your blood (v. 52)?
 - A. Jesus teaches (vs. 53-59).
 - B. Explanatory Scripture (Ephesian 2:1-10).
Salvation is by grace alone so no one can boast: grace upon grace!

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, October 30, 2016

Passage: Various

Memory Passage: Ephesians 2:8-10

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Eph. 2:1-10.** This week we will examine the doctrine of Sola Gratia, Latin for “Grace Alone,” one of the 5 Solas of the Reformation. Write a paragraph explaining the state (vs. 2-3) of the one who is dead in trespasses and sins (v. 1). Do more than rewrite Paul’s words. Think through each phrase, write it in your own words, and write a paragraph tying them together.
- (b) What has God accomplished to overcome the dead state of those who will be saved (vs. 5-6), why has He done this (v. 4), and for what purpose has He done this (v. 7).
- (c) From where do faith and grace come, and how do they work together to bring about salvation?
- (d) According to this passage, what roles do God, man, and works play in salvation?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 Cor. 1:18-31.** What two groups of people are in view, and what are their reactions to the gospel (v. 18)?
- (b) Explain the difference between man’s wisdom and God’s wisdom with regard to salvation (vs. 19-21; 26-28)?
- (c) Why is the gospel a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles (vs. vs. 22-23)?
- (d) Why do some Jews & Greeks receive the gospel leading to their salvation and some do not (vs. 21, 24, 30)?
- (e) Explain the difference between wrong boasting (vs. 27-29) and right boasting (vs. 30-31).

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Romans 8:28-30.** Paul spoke in 1 Corinthians about God’s calling being the key to receiving the gospel as the power & wisdom of God rather than folly or as a stumbling block. What does it mean to be “called according to his purpose” (v. 28, cf. Ephesians 1:11-12)?
- (b) Define each of God’s actions and each of man’s actions mentioned in Romans 8:29-30.
- (c) Can a person receive one of these works of God without receiving others? How do you know, and why is this important?
- (d) **Read Romans 8:31-39.** On what basis does God accomplish all of the blessings of salvation mentioned in vs. 29-30, and what benefit do they bring to the life of a believer?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read John 6:22-51.** Our focus today will be on vs. 35-51, but first, briefly explain their context, found in vs. 22-34.
- (b) What promises are made to those who “come” to Jesus (vs. 35, 37, 39-40, 44, 47, 50-51)?
- (c) Lest we rip these promises from their context, who, exactly, are the only ones who will come to Jesus (v. 37, 39, 44)?
- (d) What will distinguish the “coming” of those who will be saved from the “coming” of those who only seek signs (v. 40)?
- (e) Why do the Jews, and everyone who is dead in their sin, “grumble” (vs. 41-42) at this teaching?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Eph. 1:3-14.** Salvation in Christ alone, by grace alone, through faith alone, according to the Scriptures alone, for the glory of God alone. God used these Spiritual truths to ignite the Reformation. Ephesians 1 emphasizes that God did all of the work in salvation “according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.” Reflecting on this week’s lesson, answer the following commonly-asked questions (“grumblings?”):
- (b) “Since all people have free will to accept or reject the gospel, how can God’s grace be limited to a select group?” “Explain why John 3:16, John 12:32, & 1 Tim. 3:4 don’t contradict your definition of ‘grace alone?’” “How can God be loving if His grace only reaches some?” “Why preach the gospel if God has already chosen those who will receive His grace?”

DATE: October 30, 2016

PASSAGE: Various

Sola Gratia