

The Importance of the Reformation Pt 2

Introduction:

The Word bible comes from the word for papyrus plant (biblos) Since the leaves of the that plant were used for paper. Ancient Bibles were sometimes written on Parchment from sheep or goat skins. It required an entire flock of sheep to provide the material for one 4th century New Testament. The cost of a Bible in the 13th century could amount the amount of a priest entire yearly income.

By 400 AD the Bible had been translated into 500 languages By 500AD the Bible had been reduced down to one language, Latin. It was considered to be the language of the the educated, Not the common people, and the church was cast into the Dark Ages. It wasn't until Reformation that the Church was reacquainted and returned to the truth of the Gospel.

- I. **Sola Scriptura: Our Only Manuel**
- II. **Solus Christus: Our Only Method**
- III. **Sola Gratia: Our Only Method**
- IV. **Sola Fide: Our Only Means**
- V. **Soli Deo Gloria: Our Only Motivation**

- I. **Sola Scriptura: Our Only Manuel**
 - A. **Thesis One: Sola Scriptura “Cambridge Declaration”**

We reaffirm the inerrant Scripture to be the sole source of written divine revelation, which alone can

bind the conscience. The Bible alone teaches all that is necessary for our salvation from sin and is the standard by which all Christian behavior must be measured. We deny that any creed, council or individual may bind a Christian's conscience, that the Holy Spirit speaks independently of or contrary to what is set forth in the Bible, or that personal spiritual experience can ever be a vehicle of revelation

II. Solus Christus: Our Only Method

Solus Christus: The Erosion of Christ-Centered Faith

As evangelical faith becomes secularized, its interests have been blurred with those of the culture. The result is a loss of absolute values, permissive individualism, and a substitution of wholeness for holiness, recovery for repentance, intuition for truth, feeling for belief, chance for providence, and immediate gratification for enduring hope. Christ and his cross have moved from the center of our vision.

The Reformation called the church back to faith in Christ as the sole mediator between God and man.

While the Roman church held that "there is a purgatory and that the souls there detained are helped by the intercessions of the faithful" and that "Saints are to be venerated and invoked;" "that their relics are to be venerated" --

the reformers taught that salvation was by Christ's work alone.

As John Calvin said in the *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, "Christ stepped in, took the punishment upon himself and bore the judgment due to sinners. With his own blood he expiated the sins which made them enemies of God and thereby satisfied him...we look to Christ **alone** for divine favour and fatherly love!"

This is also known as the exclusivity of Christ. He alone Saves, He alone atones, He alone is the way to heaven

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Acts 4:12

Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Romans 5:1-2

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God

Eph 2:18

For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

Heb 7:25

Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.Christ

John 3:16-18

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

¹⁸ “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:36

He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.

”**We reaffirm** that our salvation is accomplished by the mediatorial work of the historical Christ alone. His sinless life and substitutionary atonement alone are sufficient for our justification and reconciliation to the Father.

We deny that the gospel is preached if Christ's substitutionary work is not declared and faith in Christ and his work is not solicited.

III. Sola Gratia: Our Only Method

Sola Gratia: The Erosion of The Gospel

Unwarranted confidence in human ability is a product of fallen human nature. This false confidence now fills the evangelical world; from the self-esteem gospel, to the health and wealth gospel, from those who have transformed the gospel into a product to be sold and sinners into consumers who want to buy, to others who treat Christian faith as being true simply because it works. This silences the doctrine of justification regardless of the official commitments of our churches.

God's grace in Christ is not merely necessary but is the sole efficient cause of salvation. We confess that human beings are born spiritually dead and are incapable even of cooperating with regenerating grace. A central cry of the Reformation was salvation by grace. Though the Roman church taught that Mass is a "sacrifice [which] is truly propitiatory" and that by the Mass "God...grant[s] us grace and the gift of penitence, remits our faults and even our enormous sins" -- the reformers returned to the biblical doctrine of salvation by grace through faith. Our righteous standing before God is imputed to us by grace because of the work of Christ Jesus our Lord. In contrast to the doctrines of self-merit taught by Rome, sola gratia and the accompanying doctrines of grace -- total depravity, unconditional election, particular redemption, and perseverance of the saints -- were preached by all the reformers throughout the Protestant movement. As the Baptist Confession of 1689 says, "Christ, by his obedience and death, did fully discharge the debt of all those that are justified; and did, by the sacrifice of himself in the blood of his cross, undergoing in their stead the penalty due unto them, make a proper, real, and full satisfaction to God's justice in their behalf;...their justification is only of free grace, that both the exact justice and rich grace of God might be glorified in the justification of sinners."

As the Scripture says,

Our INABILITY TO SAVE OURSELVES

Unwarranted confidence in human ability is a product of fallen human nature. This false confidence now fills the evangelical world;

Eph 2:1-5 And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶

Col 2:13

And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

Eph. 4:17-19

This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; ¹⁹ who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

John 6:44

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day

John 6:65

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day

John 6:43

³ Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word.

John 12:37-40

But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, ³⁸ that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke:

“Lord, who has believed our report?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

³⁹ Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again:

⁴⁰ *“He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts,
Lest they should see with their eyes,
Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn,
So that I should heal them.”*

Jer 13:23

Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots?
Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.

Romans 8:7-8

Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

John 3:3

Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Romans 3:10

As it is written:

“There is none righteous, no, not one;

- ¹¹ *There is none who understands;
There is none who seeks after God.*
- ¹² *They have all turned aside;
They have together become unprofitable;
There is none who does good, no, not one."*

Grace Grants what we don't have and gives us what we don't deserve

Ephesians 2:4-9 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Romans 3:24

being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Acts 15:11

But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they."

Romans 11:6

And if by grace, then *it is* no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if *it is* of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.

Thesis Three: Sola Gratia

We reaffirm that in salvation we are rescued from God's wrath by his grace alone. It is the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit that brings us to Christ by releasing us from our bondage to sin and raising us from spiritual death to spiritual life.

We deny that salvation is in any sense a human work. Human methods, techniques or strategies by themselves cannot accomplish this transformation. Faith is not produced by our unregenerated human nature.