

*Semper Reformanda: The Biblical Heart of the Reformation*  
Week 7: *Soli Deo Gloria*

1. Biographical note: *Soli Deo Gloria* in the life of Johann Sebastian Bach

2. *Soli Deo Gloria* - To the glory of God alone

A. Definition and summary (Romans 11:33-36)

B. *Soli Deo Gloria*, the doctrine to which all others point

1. *Sola scriptura* (Acts 5:29)
2. *Sola fide* (Ephesians 2:8-10)
3. *Sola gratia* (Romans 9:22-23)
4. *Solus Christus* (John 17:5)

C. *Soli Deo Gloria* challenged by historical developments

1. The glory of the human mind (scholasticism)
2. The glory of the institutional church and papal power (Matt 16:16-18; 1 Peter 2:4-10)
3. The glory of man through the cult of saints (Revelation 22:8-9)

3. *Sola Deo Gloria* is not a new concept, but has been demonstrated throughout history

A. Christ, the Son of God, is the only Rock upon which the church is built

1. Augustine (d. 430)

B. All believers are priests

1. Irenaeus (c. 180)
2. Celement of Alexandria (c. 195)
3. Tertullian (d. 225)

C. Worshiping God alone through a sincere heart

1. Lactantius (c. 304)

4. **Christological focus:** Jesus' life and ministry points to the glory of God alone

- A. His birth (Luke 2:13-20)
- B. His miracles (Luke 5:17-26)
- C. His nature as God (John 8:48-59)
- D. His humiliation as a man (Philippians 2:5-11)

5. We still have a tendency to undermine *Soli Deo Gloria* today

- A. The glory of the human mind (worldly wisdom)
- B. The glory of the institutional church or denomination
- C. The glory of man through the cult of celebrity
- D. Everything you do is an opportunity to glorify God! (1 Corinthians 10:31)
- E. Do not rob God of the glory due his name (Isaiah 42:8, Revelation 21)