

THE FIVE SOLAS

Talk 6: God's Glory Alone (*Soli Deo Gloria*)

Introduction



1. A God-centred world

- **What is God's glory?**

God's glory is "the weight of the majestic goodness of who God is, and the resulting name, or reputation, that he gains from his revelation of himself." James Hamilton

⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. ⁶ And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷ maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation." (Exodus 34:5-7, NIV 2011)

- **God's glory alone**

Isaiah 42:8 I am the LORD; that is my name!
I will not yield my glory to another
or my praise to idols.

Isaiah 48:11 For my own sake, for my own sake, I do this.
How can I let myself be defamed?
I will not yield my glory to another.

Acts 12:21 On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. 22 And the people were shouting, “The voice of a god, and not of a man!” 23 Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.

Romans 1:21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him.

Discussion: Is it arrogant for God to want glory for himself?

2. A God-centred salvation

- **God's glory at the cross**

John 12:23 Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

John 12:27 “Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name!” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.”

John 17:1 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.

- **A theologian of the cross**

3. A God-centred life

Soli Deo gloria is “a call to a radical vision of God-centred living in all of life’s many facets. The glory of God alone implies the right purpose for all of life—a God-centred purpose. All who share this radical view of Christianity make the ultimate purpose of life God’s glory, not their own self-fulfilment or self-realisation.” John Hannah, How do we glorify God?

- **How we pray**

Matthew 6:9 Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name



- **How we serve**

1 Peter 4:11 If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Conclusion

For reflection

When you see in the cross that the Christ is the boss - that's a sola!
When you're casting aside all your boasting and pride - that's a sola!
When you find you rejoice in our God's sovereign choice - that's a sola!
When your theology's filled with humility - that's a sola!

Discussion question: How should God's glory alone change the way we think about evangelism?

What is the chief end of man?

Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever. (Westminster Confession of Faith)

God hath all life, glory, goodness, blessedness, in and of himself; and is alone in and unto himself all-sufficient, not standing in need of any creatures which he hath made, nor deriving any glory from them, but only manifesting his own glory in, by, unto, and upon them. *(Westminster Confession of Faith 2.2.)*

"Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created." (Revelation 4:11)

