

due October 15, 2017

the just shall live by faith!
The Solas of the Reformation!
Romans 1:16-17

Monday (October 9)—prayerfully read and meditate on Romans 1:16-17, and understand the following overview on the solas of the Reformation.

(*Theopedia*, <https://www.theopedia.com/five-solas>) The Five Solas are five Latin phrases (or slogans) that emerged from the Protestant Reformation intended to summarize the Reformers' basic theological principles in contrast to certain teachings of the Roman Catholic Church... "Sola" is Latin meaning "alone" or "only" and the corresponding phrases are:

Sola Fide, by faith alone.

Sola Scriptura, by Scripture alone.

Solus Christus, through Christ alone.

Sola Gratia, by grace alone.

Soli Deo Gloria, glory to God alone.

These phrases may be found individually expressed in the various writings of the 16th century Reformers, either explicitly or implicitly, but they are not found presented as a list per se. It is most likely the list of Solas came about later.

1. What does "sola" mean? _____
2. Did Luther, Calvin, and the other early reformers specifically identify five solas? _____
- 3-5. List the five solas. _____
6. Review and take with you II Timothy 3:16-17 (as foundational truth)!

One sola will be considered for each of the following five days. The summary teaching under each day included in the Study Guide is adapted from a "modern restatement" in *The Cambridge Declaration of the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals* (1996, <https://www.theopedia.com/five-solas>); the teachers' edition of this Study Guide contains a second (longer, more academic) summary from *The Five Solas of the Reformation, A Brief Statement* by Gregg Strawbridge

(<http://www.fivesolas.com/5solas.ht>). Also, key verses are given for each sola, with boldened ones being the ones the LCA students learn—just read and think on those boldened ones (unless time and interest allows for more).

Tuesday (October 10)—prayerfully read **John 1:12**; 3:16; **I Cor. 15:3-4**; Gal. 3:6-11; **Eph. 2:8-10**, and read the following summary.

Faith alone (*Sola Fide*) Justification is by grace alone through faith alone because of Christ alone. In justification, Christ's righteousness is imputed [given] to us as the only possible satisfaction of God's perfect justice. Our justification does not rest on any merit [good] to be found in us, nor upon the grounds of an infusion [gradually introducing] of Christ's righteousness in us, nor that an institution claiming to be a church that denies or condemns sola fide can be recognized as a legitimate church.

1. Justification is by _____ alone through _____ alone because of _____ alone.
2. What is the only possible satisfaction of God's perfect justice?

3. What church cannot claim to be a true church?

- 4-6. Review, meditate on, and try to say from memory Ephesians 2:8-10.

Wednesday (October 11)—prayerfully read Psa. 119:18; 138:2; **Rom. 10:17**; **II Tim. 3:14-17**; **Heb. 4:12-13**; **II Pet. 1:20-21**, and answer the following.

Scripture alone (*Sola Scriptura*) The inerrant Scripture (the Bible) is the sole source of written divine revelation, which alone can bind the conscience [must be obeyed]. 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. It is denied 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.

1. What is the sole source of written divine revelation?

2. Does the Holy Spirit ever speak independently of what is in the Bible? _____

3. A statement we like to quote around our church is that the Bible is the absolute guide to _____ and _____.
 4. What do you think is meant by “personal spiritual experience can [never] be a vehicle of revelation”? _____
- 5-6. Review II Timothy 3:14-17 (especially verses 16-17), and let it seep into your soul;

Thursday (October 12)—prayerfully read Col. 1:13-18; **I Tim. 2:5-6** [not on LCA list]; Heb. 4:15, and answer the following.

Christ alone (*Solus Christus*) Our salvation is accomplished by the mediatorial work [work done by a third party who comes between offender and offended, to make things right] of the historical Christ alone. His sinless life and substitutionary [taking our place] atonement [making things right between two parties which are separated by the guilt of one of them] alone are sufficient for our justification [making things right] and reconciliation [ones before separated brought back together] to the Father. It is denied that the gospel is preached if Christ’s substitutionary work is not declared and faith in Christ and his work is not solicited [asked for].

1. What do you suppose is meant by “the historical Christ”? _____
 2. Who did the “mediatorial work”? _____
 3. This statement on Christ alone contains many theological terms (mediatorial work, substitutionary, atonement, etc.); which is the hardest term, and which is the easiest term for you to understand? _____
 4. What do you suppose is meant by “his work is not solicited”? _____
- 5-6. Meditate on I Timothy 2:5-6!

Friday (October 13)—prayerfully read Eph. 1:3-8; **2:8-9**, and answer the following.

Grace alone (*Sola Gratia*) 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. It is denied 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 [not born again] human nature.

1. What rescues us from God’s wrath? _____
 2. From what does grace release us? _____
 3. In what sense is salvation a human work (according to this statement)? _____
 4. What is not produced by our unregenerated human nature? _____
- 5-6. Wherein has He made us accepted in Christ (Eph. 1:6) (and take this thought with you)? _____

Saturday (October 14)—prayerfully read Rom. 11:36; **I Cor. 10:31**; Eph. 3:21; I Pet. 4:11; II Pet. 3:1; Rev 1:6; 7:12, and answer the following.

Glory to God alone (*Soli Deo Gloria*) It is affirmed that because salvation is of God and has been accomplished by God, it is for God’s glory and that we must glorify him always. We must live our entire lives before the face of God [living with an awareness of His reality and presence], under the authority of God and for his glory alone. It is denied that we can properly glorify God if our worship is confused with entertainment, if we neglect either Law or Gospel in our preaching, or if self-improvement, self-esteem or self-fulfillment are allowed to become alternatives to the gospel.

1. What reason is given for our salvation? _____
2. What should we live our lives for? _____
3. When can we not glorify God in our worship? _____
4. What two things are not to be neglected in our preaching? _____
5. Give one of the three things which should not become an alternative to the gospel. _____
6. Take with you for the day the great verse I Corinthians 10:31!

Sunday (October 15)—prayerfully review the above highlighted scriptures.