



"The Five Solas / Getting it Right from the Start"
5 Solas wk. 5 – Soli Deo Gloria
By Pastor Jody May 10/29/2023

Genesis 45:4-13 ESV

⁴So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.

⁷And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. ¹⁰You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' ¹²And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you.

¹³You must tell my father of all **my honor in Egypt**, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here."

[CONNECT/INTRO]

How/why do we remember our heroes? What makes us retell their stories till their stories turn into legend? To the extent we remember our heroes I believe happens in connection to the amount in which they sacrifice and redeem those they are rescuing and this all contributes to the amount of glory they receive.

- We remember movies like Gladiator, Braveheart, and Saving Private Ryan because the main characters in those stories sacrifice in the end for the greater good.
- We remember our sport heroes not just based on their stats but when they accomplish a comeback victory, that saved the whole team.



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- We remember our rulers/governors/politicians not because of their voting records, speeches, or bill writing, but when they stand for what they believe in even when it vilifies them amongst constituents.
- We remember during Reformation month the martyrs of our faith as they suffered for Christ ensuring that future generations would be free to worship God.

We remember our heroes in relation to the amount of glory they received enduring a struggle that seemed impossible to redeem not just for themselves but for others.

I say all this because today we are learning about the last of the 5 Solas, [Soli Deo Gloria](#), to the **Glory of God Alone**¹. The first 4 Solas, those doctrines are held together here by the fifth one, God did it all for our Salvation (the 4 Solas) and He receives the Glory alone because of it.

God is the preeminent of all heroes, His deeds are magnified in relation to His perfectness, righteousness, and holiness acting for people that deserved nothing from Him because of their depravity and traitorous behavior. His glory therefore is forever increasing the more we tell of His story, His glory grows and as it shines brighter shedding more light on our brokenness. This is not fabrication or embellishment but simply **the older we become** as people **the more we understand how lost** we were and **how hopeless** the situation was to be saved. That to be saved would have to come from without and it would have to be from someone who was not like us.

The more we see the Glory of God in His Son Jesus our King the more we revere Him, the more real He becomes, the more He takes up space in our lives, the less we have time to fret, the less desire to complain, and the less we are prone to wander. We are being saved through experiencing God's consistent and faithful glorification of Himself, in His acts of redemption, towards a people that needed a miracle!

¹ Soli Deo gloria is the motto that grew out of the Protestant Reformation and was used on every composition by Johann Sebastian Bach. He affixed the initials SDG at the bottom of each manuscript to communicate the idea that it is God and God alone who is to receive the glory for the wonders of His work of creation and of redemption. At the heart of the sixteenth century controversy over salvation was the issue of grace.



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Let me share with you how it made the Apostle Paul feel, as he was working his way through the writing of Romans.

Romans 11:33-36 ESV

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

³⁴ "For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been his counselor?"

³⁵ "Or who has given a gift to him
that he might be repaid?"

³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. **To him be glory forever.** Amen.

Paul finds himself in exaltation after 11 chapters into his letter where he has been preaching to the church in Rome on who they are in chapter 1 and then for the next 10 chapters he has expounded on who God is!

- How is man saved?
- By what power are we brought to faith in Jesus?
- How can we become Holy?
- Where are we headed?
- How can we be sure of getting there?

Let me just show you in one place in Romans 3 where Paul is actually proclaiming the Doctrine of the 5 Solas in one section:

Romans 3:21-27 ESV

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although **the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— [SOLA SCRIPTURA]**

²² the righteousness of God through **faith in Jesus Christ** for all who believe **[SOLA FIDE]**. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are **justified by his grace as a gift [SOLA GRATIA]**, through the **redemption that is in Christ Jesus [SOLA CHRISTUS]**, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to **show God's righteousness**, because in his divine forbearance **he had passed over former sins.** ²⁶ It was to **show his righteousness** at the present



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time, so that **he might be just and the justifier** of the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷ Then **what becomes of our boasting?** It is excluded **[SOLI DEO GLORIA]**.

Paul points out that it is through the Scripture Alone we were made aware of our need for God, that Faith alone in Christ we are saved, and that's a gift by Grace alone, through the redemption provided by Christ alone, showing God's divine forbearance, to show His righteousness, to show his right to be the justifier so no one can boast, so along with Paul in Chapter 11:36 let us all stop HCC and proclaim **"To Him be glory forever. Amen."** – or in the words of the reformers **"Soli Deo Gloria!** – To God alone be the Glory!

All things in life and history, good and bad, has happened and will happen to bring God glory! God's glory is almost always portrayed through how He redeems because that is where the most glory is to be obtained, right? Think about it, He raises the dead, you and I were dead in our trespasses (Eph 2:1), dead men can't help themselves, no one BUT GOD can accomplish our Salvation!

Now, as we promised I want to show you that it has always been that way, ever since Genesis, God has been doing things to bring people to the awareness of how He is saving them through direct intervention. I want us to turn now to Genesis 45, and show you God's plans for Salvation, and how redemption is to reveal His Glory, for it shows us **how to respond** to the grand revelation of **Soli Deo Gloria** in our lives.

Genesis 45:4-13 ESV

⁴ So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now **do not be distressed or angry** with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

1. Don't be angry over your sin (past choices).

That's easy to say but hard to do isn't? In our story what you may not be aware of, is that these men, the brothers of Joseph, have kept a dark, loathsome, hidden secret for years. Their little brother Joseph was the apple of Jacob's



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eye, father Israel, and because Joseph knew it, he felt confident to speak very openly about what God was showing Him about his relationship to his brothers. Joseph, like many of us, had no idea how the things he said affected others. It got to the point that these brothers beat him up and were going to leave him for dead, except for the voice of Reuben who said throw him into a pit. Of which to his dismay when he went back for him some slavers had already gathered him up and were on their way to Egypt with him.

These men all saw the effect of what that had on their father. They all saw the light grow dim in his eye. And to some degree, how they viewed Jacob's favoritism changed, for they had a totally different relationship with their youngest brother, Benjamin. To the point they offered their lives in exchange as a promise if anything were to happen to Benjamin when they had to take him to Egypt.

By this time in Gen. 45 Joseph has done a lot of wrestling about what had happened, and the story is very clear. It was God who gave Joseph the dreams, God gave Joseph the wisdom to understand those dreams, and God gave Joseph a love for God to the point that he wanted to share those truths with his brothers. God used the angst of those brothers to get Joseph in that ditch to get him to Egypt to save not just Egypt but to save God's people, his family. Joseph has accepted that it was all a part of God's plan, **which got him to forgive his brothers**. And now it was time for a healing to take place. God acts through Joseph, to forgive and remove the brother's guilt, to redeem them not just from sin but from shame, to save them.

This was a foreshadowing of what would become known as the **Scapegoat**² of Israel. In future years on the Day of Atonement the High Priest would take two lambs, one would be offered as sacrifice for sins and one would bear the **shame**

² Azazel" or "the scapegoat" is mentioned in [Leviticus 16](#) as part of God's instructions to the Israelites regarding the Day of Atonement. The priest brought the animals before the Lord and cast lots between the two goats – one to be a sacrifice and the other to be the scapegoat. The first goat was slaughtered for the sins of the people and its blood used to cleanse the Most Holy Place, the tent of meeting and the altar (v. 20). After the cleansing, the live goat was brought to the high priest. Laying his hands on the scapegoat, the high priest was to "confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites – all their sins – and put them on the goat's head. He shall send the goat away into the wilderness in the care of someone appointed for the task. The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a remote place; and the man shall release it in the wilderness" (vv. 21-22). Symbolically, the scapegoat took on the sins of the Israelites and removed them (v. 10). For Christians, this is a foreshadowing of Christ.



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of the people and be let loose into the wilderness. All of this to represent that God not only removes our sin but our shame/guilt as well.

1 Peter 2:6 ESV

⁶For it stands in Scripture:

"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will **not be put to shame.**" (Zeph. 3:19)

The Glory of God is this, that only God has the ability to remove shame, and He promises that for those that put faith in His Son, He will. You are to remember your sins no more, for God remembers them no more. **Stop being angry over sin**, past choices, for God remembers it not, and live free to the Glory of God!

How else do we respond?

⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.

⁷And **God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth**, and to **keep alive for you many survivors.**

⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

2. Don't look at things as just coincidence.

If God is Sovereign over all things, then we have got to stop looking at things that happen as coincidence. What makes Joseph so sure that this was a work of God is that he understands that **God had a previous covenant** with Abraham before Joseph was ever born, that's how He knows it's not coincidence.

Genesis 12:1-3 ESV

12 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that **I will show you.** ²And **I will make of you** a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³**I will bless** those who bless you, and him who dishonors you **I will curse**, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."



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Joseph acts and puts faith in his life at that moment based on previous agreements that God had made with his family earlier. You see our faith is not based on blind luck, nor is it based on our ability to believe or achieve, but it is all based on **God’s promise to save His people, Soli Deo Gloria!**

This is how our life works as well, for we all are to live with the understanding that our lives work in between the guardrails of God’s [New Covenant](#).³ The night before Jesus’ death He explains that the time has come, the new deal had been struck, the OT promises were being fulfilled and replaced.

Luke 22:20 ESV

And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the **new covenant** in my blood.

What is this New Covenant?

Ezekiel 36:26-27 ESV

²⁶ And **I will give** you a new heart, and a new spirit **I will put** within you. And **I will remove** the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And **I will put** my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

So, here’s how we look at this. The promise now is that God is going to save us not through a born heritage, that demands the observance of the law, BUT He will change our hearts which will **show an adherence** to the law, that is glorified in loving God the most above all and loving one’s neighbor. And if that’s the promise now, then what should we expect to happen in our lives?

We should expect to have rough days of spiritual and mental ups & downs by which God shows us our faulty thinking, our faulty beliefs, and a misplaced trust in ourselves BECAUSE the **promise is to change our hearts!** Therefore, everything in our lives the good the bad and the ugly happen because God is keeping His promise to change our hearts! **A heart cannot be changed until that person becomes aware of how they have squandered their time on love**

³ The New Covenant is the promise that God will forgive sin and restore fellowship with those whose hearts are turned toward Him. Jesus Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant, and His death on the cross is the basis of the promise ([Luke 22:20](#)). The New Covenant was predicted while the [Old Covenant](#) was still in effect—the prophets Moses, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel all allude to the New Covenant.



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of self. God does this so that you can see that only He can change your demeanor about yourself and others, so He alone gets that credit, **Soli Deo Gloria!**

Romans 8:28 ESV

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Things are never just a coincidence they are part of the plans of the Most-High to save you, because He made a promise to do so.

How else do we respond?

⁹**Hurry and go up** to my father **and say** to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; **do not tarry.** ¹⁰You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' ¹²And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you.

3. Don't keep all the good for yourself.

So, God has not only removed sin but your shame as well and He has changed our hearts to cause us to want to live for Him. That means everything has changed for us, hasn't it!? So, **what do you do with these blessings?** You are supposed to go and share all that you have accrued (your blessings) with your spiritual family, so that all prosper under God's good care.

Joseph is like *go tell and bring everyone*, God saved us to bless all His people that we can get to. That is exactly the same for us in the NT church.

Acts 2:44-47 ESV

⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and



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breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people.

Under our new covenant, under our new understanding that nothing is a coincidence, under the blessing of having no more shame, we should come to the understanding that **all we have received is not just for ourselves**. God saves a people to be a people that share in their good fortune and what their Salvation brought them with others in the **covenantal community**.

Listen, we are not a hippy commune, neither are we communists, but we are God's people and if you have something that can help someone else out in this room along their path of Salvation, and you are not using it for them, then that is sin, and you need to question it. I'm not saying give up your life savings, but I am **calling on all members to remember their covenants** with one another, first to our corporate ministry of this church which asks you to give at least a tithe, and I ask you secondly go above and beyond that with one another and let's make sure we love each other sacrificially as Christ has loved us.

You see when people act like that it is such a stark contrast in this world that **God will get the credit, Soli Deo Gloria!** An aspect of seeing God as one's redeemer is that we don't keep all our good things to ourselves, we go and we bless others with our blessings.

How else do we respond?

¹³ **You must tell** my father **of all my honor** in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here."

4. But DO tell everyone how God glorifies Himself!

What is honor - it is glory, and what is Joseph's Glory - it is the Glory of God, and what do you do with the story of God's glory - you go and tell others about Him!

Matthew 5:16 ESV

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.



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1 Corinthians 10:31 ESV

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

[APPLICATION]

Keep practicing Faith in front of others.

If God kept all His promises from the OT in the life of Christ, then we should, in light of that, fully believe and accept God will keep all His promises to us, in the here and now. You keep practicing your faith.

Romans 4:20

No unbelief made him (Abraham) waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God.

You have a wandering child, don't make excuses for them, pray and turn them over to God because you believe God can change them.

You find yourself a little scared about this country's future, practice not worrying about tomorrow, and instead look forward to Jesus' return for He told us it would get rocky.

You find yourself put out with your lot in life, perhaps accept that God allows things to happen to reveal Himself to save others and you, ask God to show you and to change you.

In this way you practice living for the Glory of God alone!

Keep practicing Worship in front of others.

"Worship is a distinct activity in which we set aside other tasks and set our minds and hearts fully upon the Lord, in order to receive his word and to respond to him with prayer and song-in private, in families, and especially in the corporate worship of the church on the Lord's Day." – David Vandrunen⁴

⁴ https://www.amazon.com/Glory-Alone-Majestic-Heart-Christian-ebook/dp/B00UF7WBL4/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2AGXWMFCW0VB8&keywords=glory+of+god+alone+David+Vandrunen&qid=1698433269&srefix=glory+of+god+alone+david+vandruden%2Caps%2C108&sr=8-1



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His Steadfast Love Endures Forever

100 A PSALM FOR GIVING THANKS.

- ¹ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
- ² Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!
- ³ Know that the LORD, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
- ⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!
- ⁵ For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

We worship Him private and corporately because it is commanded.

We worship Him to show the world that His worthiness is not based on how He pleases me.

We worship Him to encourage each other towards repentance and confession.

Keep practicing giving God glory in all things.

1 Corinthians 10:31 ESV

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

The context here of 1 Cor 10, is about how to handle eating food that has been offered to idols. Paul is reminded the people of Corinth, that in the process of God saving people and sanctifying them, you and I are to be aware that all we do should bring glory to God not ourselves.



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If you are actively living in such a way that you make known to everyone your religious beliefs for the sake of arguing, stop that, it glorifies yourself.

If you are living in such a way that no one asks you for a reason for your faith, stop it you're missing the point of your existence, to bring God glory.

1 Thessalonians 4:11 ESV

***11** and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, **12** so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.*

Instead live in such a way that is both quiet but distinctive to cause someone to ask you a reason why you do something. Work on making that connection to how you are glorifying God in that decision.

Seventeen Ways to Live for God's Glory – a Puritan's Listicle

If we live to bring God Glory then God is going to bring glory to your life so you may make much of His Son, that is my prayer for you would you please pray the same for me.

[PRAYER]

[COMMUNION]

[BLESSING]

Go in the name of the Father, that has maneuvered all things to bring Him eternal glory, trust His leading.

Go in the name of the Son, that glorified the Father perfectly, through a selfless sacrifice for both the Father and us.

Go in the name and power of the HS, who is constantly making us aware of God's extravagant glory increasing our desire to share the good news with others.