

The Five Solas

OF THE REFORMATION

[PART 3]

SOLA GRATIA

Reading: Ephesians 2:8 - 9

Introduction

- Key Reformation statement: '*Justification By GRACE Through FAITH.*'
- Five '*sola's*' defined the Reformation.
- '*Sola Scriptura*' & '*Solus Christus*' & '*Sola Gratia*' & '*Soli Fidi*' & '*Sola Deo Gloria.*'
- These 5 statements are as relevant today as they were in the 16th century.

1 The Sinfulness And The Reach Of Sin

- As a result of our first parent's sin the whole race has inherited a corrupted, fallen nature.
- Sin is like a disease: it has impacted our whole world and left no one untouched by it. "*All have sinned.*"
- It will ultimately kill everyone. "*the wages of sin is death.*"
- What do we mean by sin?
- Sin (Gk. Hamartia) '*to fall short of a standard.*'
- Transgression - '*to cross a forbidden boundary.*' "*You shall not....*"
- Sinner: a spiritual criminal - broken God's law and offended His honour/name.

- Consequently the sinner stands condemned in God's courtroom. [Revelation 21:8].
- NB. God owes the sinner nothing except the just and righteous judgement of their sins.

2 What Is Meant By Grace?

- The word '*grace*' is used 170 times in the Bible.
- Definition: '*God's unmerited and undeserved favour.*'
- God owes us nothing, not even a chance to be saved.
- If we deserved a chance then it wouldn't be grace.
- If you believe you deserve to be saved you are bringing a '*work*' to the table.
- NB. There will be no one in hell who does not deserve to be there.
- Equally so there will be no one in heaven who deserves to be there.

3 Noah And The First Mention Of Grace. [Genesis 6:8].

- Noah's world, along with Noah, was wicked, sinful and corrupt and God's heart was grieved by it.
- Noah was just as sinful, corrupt and wicked as the next person.
- God determined He was going to exercise His justice and destroy the earth and start again.
- *"But Noah found GRACE in the eyes of the Lord."*
- Noah found grace. Not the next person. This grace is scandalous.
- Noah was only a just man and perfect in his generations and walking with God **AFTER** he found grace.
- Spurgeon: *'If grace does not make us different from other men then it is not grace we have encountered.'*
- Edwards: *'Grace is but the glory begun but when we are glorified that is grace perfected.'*
- Why Noah? Why me? Why you?
- Simple pure scandalous grace... and '*grace alone*' at that.
- John Newton: *'Amazing grace that saved a wretch like me....'*

Teaching Biblically • Thinking Biblically • Living Biblically

Whitewell Metropolitan Tabernacle 837-869 Shore Road Belfast BT15 4HS
 Tel: 028 9077 7074 Email: info@whitewell.church
www.whitewell.church