

A RIDE NATURE MINISTRY RESOURCE

# Foundations

FOR OUR EVERYDAY FAITH

## 5 Solas of The Reformation

A BREAKDOWN OF THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FAITH IN JESUS.

# *Foundations*

FOR OUR EVERYDAY FAITH

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THE RIDE NATURE ORGANIZATION

AS A RESOURCE AND TOOL FOR ACTION SPORTS FOCUSED  
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# Overview

## THE HISTORY OF THE 5 SOLAS

***Sola Scriptura*** ("by Scripture alone")

- Only the Bible has authority to teach.

***Sola Fide*** ("by faith alone")

- It is your faith that brings salvation.

***Sola Gratia*** ("by grace alone")

- God gives us an amazing grace to the point of Him seeing us as righteous because of the sacrifice of Jesus.

***Solus Christus*** ("In Christ alone")

- Faith that Jesus Christ is the only way to the father.

***Soli Deo Gloria*** ("God be the glory alone")

- God gets all of the glory so that no man can boast.

Each of these Latin phrases represents a key area of doctrine that was an issue of contention between the Reformers and the Roman Catholic Church, and today they still serve to summarize key doctrines essential to the Gospel and to Christian life and practice. The Latin word *sola* means "alone" or "only" and the essential Christian doctrines represented by these five Latin phrases accurately summarize the biblical teaching on these crucial subjects: *sola scriptura*—Scripture alone, *sola fide*—faith alone, *sola gratia*—grace alone, *sola Christus*—Christ alone, and *sola Deo gloria*—for the glory of God alone.

Each one is vitally important, and they are all closely tied together. Deviation from one will lead to error in another essential doctrine, and the result will almost always be a false gospel which is powerless to save.

*Sola  
Scriptura*

# Sola Scriptura

## By Scripture Alone

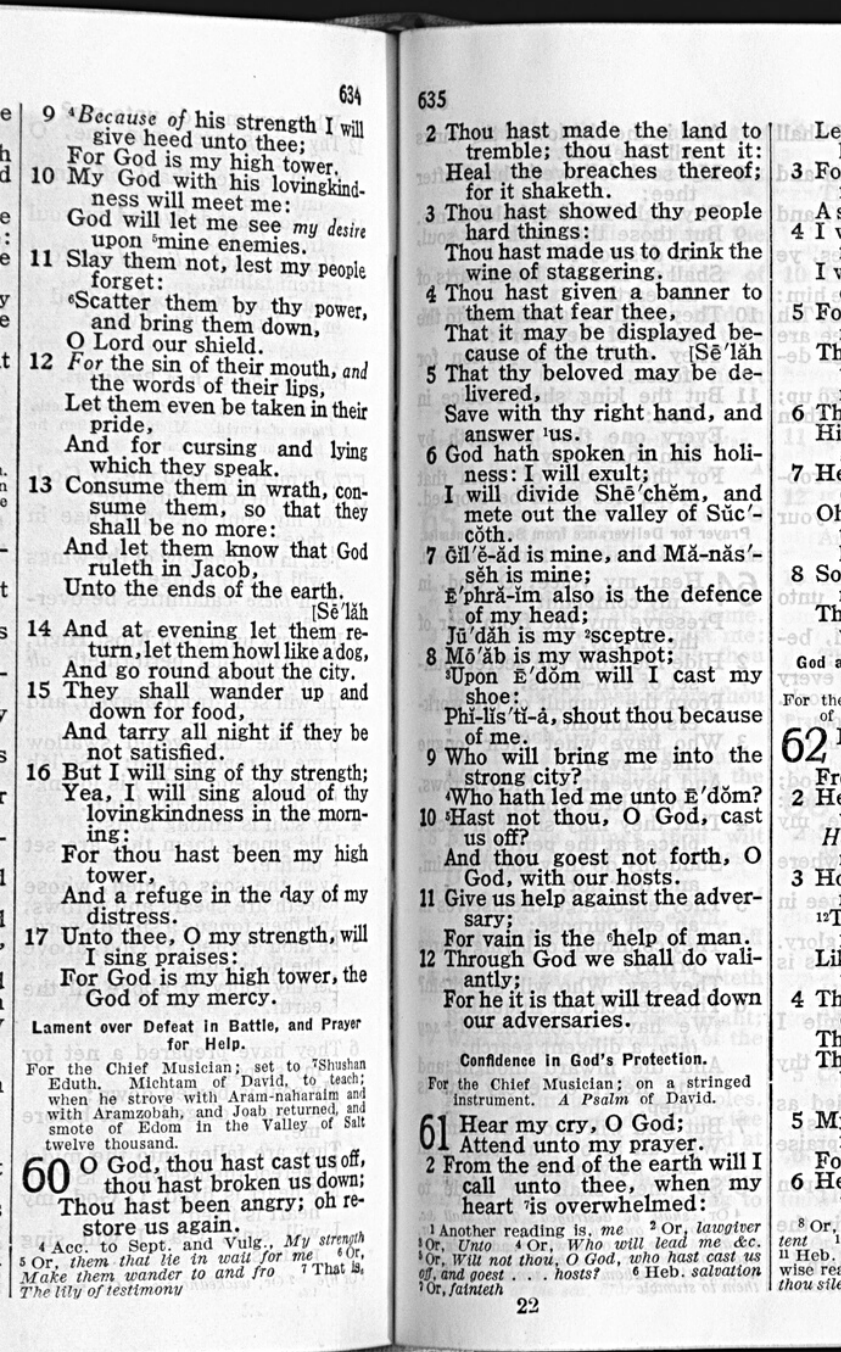
The Reformation principle of Sola Scriptura has to do with the sufficiency of Scripture as our supreme authority in our faith. Sola Scriptura simply means that all truth necessary for our salvation and spiritual life is taught either explicitly or implicitly in Scripture. Sola Scriptura means Scripture is the supreme authority over the church. The Bible ruled reason and tradition because it alone was infallible as God's word. All other authorities (including church leadership) were fallible and must submit to Scripture. This is so important because often times, we look to different books and pastors words, while this can be profitable, we must make sure these words align with scripture. If we elevate the teachings of others over the teachings of the bible then we have truly lost our way and given authority to something other than the word of God.

***"All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."***

**- 2 Timothy 3:16-17**

***"They received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so."*** - Acts 17:11b

***"And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?...so for the sake of your tradition, you have made void the word of God"*** - Matthew 15:3, 6



9 <sup>4</sup>Because of his strength I will give heed unto thee; For God is my high tower.  
10 My God with his lovingkindness will meet me: God will let me see *my desire* upon <sup>5</sup>mine enemies.  
11 Slay them not, lest my people forget: <sup>6</sup>Scatter them by thy power, and bring them down, O Lord our shield.  
12 For the sin of their mouth, and the words of their lips, Let them even be taken in their pride, And for cursing and lying which they speak.  
13 Consume them in wrath, consume them, so that they shall be no more: And let them know that God ruleth in Jacob, Unto the ends of the earth.  
14 And at evening let them return, let them howl like a dog, And go round about the city.  
15 They shall wander up and down for food, And tarry all night if they be not satisfied.  
16 But I will sing of thy strength; Yea, I will sing aloud of thy lovingkindness in the morning: For thou hast been my high tower, And a refuge in the day of my distress.  
17 Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing praises: For God is my high tower, the God of my mercy.

<sup>4</sup>Acc. to Sept. and Vulg., *My strength* Or, *them that lie in wait for me* <sup>5</sup>Or, *Make them wander to and fro* <sup>6</sup>That is, *The lily of testimony*

2 Thou hast made the land to tremble; thou hast rent it: Heal the breaches thereof; for it shaketh.  
3 Thou hast showed thy people hard things: Thou hast made us to drink the wine of staggering.  
4 Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, That it may be displayed because of the truth. [Sē'lāh  
5 That thy beloved may be delivered, Save with thy right hand, and answer <sup>us</sup>.  
6 God hath spoken in his holiness: I will exult; I will divide Shē'chem, and mete out the valley of Sūc'cōth.  
7 Gīl'ē-ād is mine, and Mā-nās'-sēh is mine; E'phrā-im also is the defence of my head; Jū'dāh is my <sup>2</sup>sceptre.  
8 Mō'āb is my washpot; <sup>1</sup>Upon E'dōm will I cast my shoe: Phī-lis'ti-ā, shout thou because of me.  
9 Who will bring me into the strong city? <sup>4</sup>Who hath led me unto E'dōm?  
10 <sup>3</sup>Hast not thou, O God, cast us off? And thou goest not forth, O God, with our hosts.  
11 Give us help against the adversary; For vain is the <sup>3</sup>help of man.  
12 Through God we shall do valiantly; For he it is that will tread down our adversaries.

<sup>1</sup>Another reading is, *me* <sup>2</sup>Or, *lawgiver* <sup>3</sup>Or, *Unto* <sup>4</sup>Or, *Who will lead me &c.* <sup>5</sup>Or, *Will not thou, O God, who hast cast us off, and goest . . . hosts?* <sup>6</sup>Heb. *salvation* <sup>7</sup>Or, *raineth*

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*Sola  
Fide*

# Sola Fide

## By Faith Alone

Sola fide, which means "by faith alone," is important because it is one of the distinguishing characteristics or key points that separate the true biblical Gospel from false gospels. At stake is the very Gospel itself and it is therefore a matter of eternal life or death. Sola fide or faith alone is a key point of difference between not only Protestants and Catholics but between biblical Christianity and almost all other religions and teachings. The teaching that we are declared righteous by God (justified) on the basis of our faith alone and not by works is a key doctrine of the Bible. Biblical Christianity is distinct from every other religion in that it is centered on what God has accomplished through Christ's finished work, while all other religions are based on human achievement. Therefore we are justified by our faith alone and not by any works that we do, if our salvation was dependant on our works then we could not attain it.

***"Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified."***

***- Galatians 2:16***

***"And be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith."***

***- Philippians 3:9***





*Sola  
Gratia*



# Sola Gratia

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## By Grace Alone

Sola gratia is simply acknowledging that the Bible teaches that the totality of our salvation is a gift of grace from God. Salvation is based on God's grace and mercy and not on anything good in us. It is an amazing grace that "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us". Finally, sola gratia is important because it is the basis of our assurance of salvation as sinners before a holy God. If we deny sola gratia, then we cannot have any true assurance of our salvation. Since everything we do is tainted by sin, how can we have confidence that our "decision for Christ" was effective, and how can we know if we have enough faith to be saved? Fortunately, the Bible reveals a different Gospel, one based not on what we do but on what Jesus Christ has done.

***"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved" - Ephesians 2:4-5***

***"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." - Romans 3:23-24***

***"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." - Ephesians 2:8-9***

Solus  
Christus

# Solus Christus

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## In Christ Alone

When the Reformers insisted on solo Christo, they affirmed that we are saved by Christ alone, apart from the merit of any other person. Jesus alone is the King of kings, He alone is our High Priest, He alone is our Redeemer and the sole Mediator between God and man. Assigning those roles to someone else (such as Mary) is equally improper. It is Christ and Christ alone who saves. It is not our righteousness that saves us; it is Christ's alone. He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe and only through Christ Jesus. Whatever good works we do and however faithful we are, in the final analysis, we are unworthy yet Jesus loved us so much that he humbled himself to take our sins away on the cross.

***"The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" - John 1:29***

***"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."***

***- Acts 4:12***

***"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed." - 1 Peter 2:24***



*Soli Deo  
Gloria*



# Soli Deo Gloria

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## To God be the Glory Alone

There is no room for the glory of man in God's plan for salvation. The glory is God's alone. Jesus said, "Apart from me you can do nothing". If it were possible for someone to attain salvation through the works of the Law, then he would have something to boast of (Romans 4:2); but it is impossible. We cannot save ourselves. We who were dead in our sins (Ephesians 2:1) could do nothing to help ourselves toward life. But, praise the Lord, "the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord". The glory is God's, not ours. If we get to a point where we are glorifying ourselves or our ministry then we have lost the focus of Soli Deo Gloria.

***"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"***

***"To the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen." - Romans 16:27***

***"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." - 2 Peter 3:18***

***"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." - 1 Corinthians 10:31***



# Conclusion

## AND THE RESULTS OF THESE TRUTHS

The 5 Solas of the reformation are the foundation of our faith.

If you remove any of these Solas then we have an incomplete and/or false Gospel.

Martin Luther took a great amount of time to study the bible and form this conclusion.

I believe that all of these are very biblical and can be used to train and equip the new believer and to remind the believer who needs to remember the greatness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

TO THE ENDS,

- The Ride Nature Team

