

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Montgomery, Alabama

The Five “Solas” of the Reformation

1. *Scripture alone.* When the Reformers used the words *sola Scriptura*, they were expressing their concern for the Bible’s authority, and what they meant is that the Bible alone is our ultimate authority—not the pope, not the church, not the traditions of the church or church councils, still less personal intimations or subjective feelings, but Scripture only. Other sources of authority may have an important role to play. Some are even established by God—such as the authority of church elders, the authority of the state, or the authority of parents over children. But Scripture alone is truly ultimate. Therefore, if any of these other authorities depart from Bible teaching, they are to be judged by the Bible and rejected.
2. *Grace alone.* The words *sola gratia* mean that human beings have no claim upon God. That is, God owes us nothing except just punishment for our many and very willful sins. Therefore, if He does save sinners, which He does in the case of some but not all, it is only because it pleases Him to do it. Indeed, apart from this grace and regenerating work of the Holy Spirit that flows from it, no one would be saved since in our lost condition, human beings are not capable of winning, seeking out, or even cooperating with God’s grace. By insisting on “grace alone” the Reformers were denying that human methods, techniques, or strategies in themselves could ever bring anyone to faith. It is grace alone expressed through the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit that brings us to Christ, releasing us from our bondage to sin and raising us from death to spiritual life.
3. *Faith alone.* The Reformers never tired of saying that “justification is by grace alone through faith alone because of Christ alone.” When put into theological shorthand, the doctrine was expressed as “justification by faith alone,” the article by which the church stands or falls, according to Martin Luther. The Reformers called justification by faith Christianity’s “material principle,” because it involves the very matter or substance of what a person must understand and believe to be saved. Justification is a declaration of God based on the work of Christ. It flows from God’s grace, and it comes to the individual not by anything he or she might do but by “faith alone” (*sola fide*). We may state the full doctrine as: Justification is the act of God by which He declares sinners to be righteous because of Christ alone, by grace alone, through faith alone.
4. *Christ alone.* The church of the Middle Ages spoke about Christ. A church that failed to do that could hardly claim to be Christian. But the medieval church had added many human achievements to Christ’s work, so that it was no longer possible to say that salvation was entirely by Christ and His atonement. This was the most basic of all heresies, as the Reformers rightly perceived. It was the work of God *plus* our own righteousness. The Reformation motto *solus Christus* was formed to repudiate this error. It affirmed that salvation has been accomplished once for all by the mediatorial work of the historical Jesus Christ alone. His sinless life and substitutionary atonement alone are sufficient for our justification, and any “gospel” that fails to acknowledge that or denies it is a false gospel that will save no one.
5. *Glory to God alone.* Each of the great solas is summed up in the fifth Reformation motto: *solī Deo Gloria*, meaning “to God alone be the glory.” It is what the apostle Paul expressed in Romans 11:36 when he wrote, “to Him be the glory forever! Amen.” These words follow naturally from the preceding words, “For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things” (v. 36), since it is because all things really are from God, and to God, that we say, “to God alone be the glory.”

~ from James Montgomery Boice, [Whatever Happened to the Gospel of Grace?](#) (Crossway, 2001)

The Lord’s Day, October 26, 2014
Reformation Sunday

THE ORDER FOR MORNING WORSHIP

October 26, 2014 ■ 8:30 and 11:00 A.M.

The Silent Meditation upon Entering the Sanctuary

Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what He has done for my soul.

~ Psalm 66:16

The Welcome and Announcements [8:25 and 10:55 A.M.]

The Prelude “O Worship the King” arr. Marvin; ed. Zimmerman

The Striking of the Hour

The Choral Introit “Antiphonal Praise” Dale Peterson

† **The Call to Worship** Mr. Curles

Minister: How lovely is Your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

People: One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple.

Minister: For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

People: The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

† **The Processional Hymn No. 92** “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

† **The Confession of Our Faith** [Inside front cover of the *Trinity Hymnal*]

† **The Prayer of Adoration and Invocation**

† **The Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father Which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

◀ On October 31, 1517, (All Saints’ Eve) Martin Luther nailed his “95 Theses” to the church doors in Wittenberg, Germany, and set in motion the Protestant Reformation. In the United States, Reformed churches celebrate their Protestant heritage on the Sunday (called Reformation Sunday) on or before October 31, with All Saints’ Day moved to the Sunday on or after November 1.

◀ Our worship transcends the earthly Sanctuary and we come to Mount Zion, the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to innumerable angels in festal gathering, to the assembly of the first born who are enrolled in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to JESUS! (Hebrews 12:22-24).

◀ The hallmark event on October 31, 1517, with Martin Luther’s nailing the 95 Theses to the Castle Church of Wittenberg is honored with the singing of “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.”

◀ We recognize God in His superior worth to us because of Who He is and what He has done. In so doing, we humble ourselves before Him.

The Responsive Reading

THE FIVE SOLAS OF THE REFORMATION

Sola scriptura ~ “(according to) Scripture alone”

Sola gratia ~ “(by) grace alone”

Sola fide ~ “(through) faith alone”

Solo Christo ~ “(in) Christ alone”

Soli Deo Gloria ~ “(to the) glory of God alone”

Minister: We give thanks to God for SCRIPTURE!

People: 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 [II Timothy 3:16-17].

Minister: We give thanks to God for GRACE!

People: For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, lest anyone should boast [Ephesians 2:8-9].

Minister: We give thanks to God for FAITH!

People: 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].

Minister: We give thanks to God for JESUS!

People: 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].

Minister: We praise God for His GLORY!

People: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tent for the sun [Psalm 19:1-4].

The Silent Prayer of Gratitude

The Corporate Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we are unworthy to come into Your presence, because of our many sins. We do not deserve any grace or mercy from You, if you dealt with us as we deserve. We have sinned against You, O Lord, and we have offended You. And yet, O Lord, as we acknowledge our sins and offenses, so also do we acknowledge You to be a merciful God, a loving and favorable Father, to all who turn to You. And so we humbly ask You, for the sake of Christ Your son, to show mercy to us, and forgive us all our offenses. Forgive the sins of our youth, and the sins of our old age. By Your Spirit, O God, take possession of our hearts, so that, not only the actions of our life, but also the words of our mouths, and the smallest thought of our minds, may be governed by You. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

◀ This prayer of confession is from John Knox's liturgy of 1560.

◀ The minister will lead the people in this prayer.

The Assurance of Pardon

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who desires not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live, pardons and absolves all them which truly repent, and unfeignedly believe the Gospel.
Amen.

The Morning Prayer

Mr. McRoberts

† The Hymn of Preparation No. 1 “All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

◀ Sung *a cappella* by all in four-part harmony, as able.

The Morning Offering

The Meditation *I Peter 3:15*

In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

The Anthem “O Clap Your Hands” Ralph Vaughan Williams

O, clap your hands, all ye people;
shout unto God with the voice of triumph.
For the Lord most high is terrible;
He is a great King over all the earth.
God is gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises unto our King, sing praises.
For God is the King of all the earth;
sing ye praises, every one that hath understanding.
God reigneth over the heathen,
God sitteth upon the throne of His holiness.
Sing praises unto our King. Sing praises.
~ *Psalm 47*

◀ Paul was ready, willing and able to give a defense of his faith before an angry mob who ultimately wanted to take his life from him (Acts 21-22). Let us all be reminded this morning as we consider our own tithes to the Lord that “Jesus paid it all.”

The Pre-Reading Explanation and Review

The Prayer of Illumination

The New Testament Lesson

Acts 21:37—22:22

◀ Page 1184 in the Pew Bible.
◀ Our most direct heritage, as Presbyterians, is the Scottish tradition, which we see with the use of bagpipes and the singing of psalms.

The Psalter Selection

Psalm 3 [tune: NEW BRITAIN]

[After the singing, Dr. Gordon will play a reprise on the bagpipes.]

Dr. Theresa Gordon, *bagpipes*

◀ Children aged four through kindergarten may leave to attend Children’s Church. Following the worship service, please pick up your children from the Children’s Chapel in the Covenant Building (E-100).

The Sermon

“THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS STORY”
Acts 21:37—22:22
LVIII. The Exposition of Acts

Mr. McRoberts

◀ Running deep in the Presbyterian tradition is expository preaching: preaching through books of the Bible section by section, chapter by chapter, verse by verse, phrase by phrase, and word by word.

Introduction

I. Paul’s Story Pre-Jesus ~ 22:1-5

II. Paul’s Conversion Story ~ 22:6-16

III. The Result of Paul’s Story ~ 22:17-22

Conclusion

The Closing Prayer of Thanksgiving and Application

† The Hymn No. 710

“God of Our Fathers”

† The Benediction

Jude 24-25

Minister: Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.

People: **AMEN!**

◀ Whether expressed as a prayer, invoking the blessing of God upon the people (II Corinthians 13:14), or pronounced as a blessing upon the people (Numbers 6:24), on occasion we end the service with a doxology to God (Jude 24-25).

† The Recessional

“Highland Cathedral”

Dr. Theresa Gordon, *bagpipes*

† The Postlude

“Old Hundredth”

Brass Ensemble

† Indicates standing as able.

Thank you to today's guest musicians who have assisted us in the worship of Almighty God:

Dennis Herrick, *trumpet*

Carly Johnson, *trumpet*

Bryan Reeves, *trumpet*

Brenda Luchsinger, *horn*

Doug Bristol, *trombone*

Marvin Griffin, *trombone*

Mike Mason, *tuba*

Mark Benson, *timpani*

Theresa Gordon, *bagpipes*

The sanctuary flowers this Lord's Day
are given by the family of
Frank Young, Jr.
to the glory of God and
in loving remembrance of Frank's birthday.

***JOINT PCA REFORMATION
EVENING WORSHIP***

October 26, 2014, 6:00 P.M.

Eastwood Presbyterian Church
1701 E. Trinity Boulevard
Montgomery, Alabama

Dr. Guy Waters
Professor of New Testament
at Reformed Theological Seminary
Jackson, Mississippi, will preach

Special Music by Joint Choir
from Eastwood and Trinity Churches

*All young people who have recited the catechism
since last Reformation Day
will be recognized during the service.*

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK
OUR CHURCH THIS LORD'S DAY, October 26, 2014

Reformation Sunday

Family Promise [October 26—November 2]

- 8:30 A.M. Early Morning Worship
- 9:45 A.M. Sunday School
- 11:00 A.M. Morning Worship
- 6:00 P.M. PCA Joint Reformation Worship at Eastwood Church
- 7:00 P.M. Senior High Fellowship at the Home of the Coopers

FOR PRAYER AND PARTICIPATION THIS WEEK

Monday, October 27

- 11:30 A.M. 3-M Luncheon Meeting in the Westminster Room
- 12 Noon Men's Bible Study in the Spires Room

Tuesday, October 28

- 6:45 A.M. Prayer Breakfast in Trinity Hall
- 9:00 A.M. Southeast Alabama Presbytery Meeting
Monroeville Presbyterian Church
- 1:00 P.M. WIC Study in the Westminster Room

Wednesday, October 29

- 6:30 A.M. Men's *Search the Scriptures* in the John Knox Room
- 7:00 A.M. Men's Bible Study in the Westminster Room
- 11:45 A.M. WIC Study in Room 203
- 5:00 P.M. *Relax* ■ Church Family Supper
- 5:40 P.M. *Renew* ■ Prayer, Sharing, Singing
- 6:00 P.M. *Refresh* ■ Something for Everyone
- 7:00 P.M. Chancel Choir
- 7:00 P.M. Session Revival Prayer Meeting in the Session Room

Thursday, October 30

- 9:30 A.M. Mother2Mother in the Spires Room

Friday, October 31

- 5:00-7:00 P.M. Reformation Party

Trinity Church Prayer Focus:

Thanksgiving for a rich Presbyterian and Reformed heritage!

Missionary Prayer Focus of the Week:

Third Millennium Ministries

WELCOME

Welcome to the family of Trinity Presbyterian Church! We believe that the Lord has a purpose in bringing you here today, and we extend to you a genuine greeting as you worship with us. *Everyone is encouraged to sign the Friendship Registers at the center aisle end of the pews.* The Spires Room is set up to provide overflow seating for each Lord's Day morning worship service. Please use this seating when the sanctuary is overcrowded or you have special worship needs. If you are new to Trinity, please speak to a minister at one of the doors at the close of the service and inform him. To find out more about the many opportunities to serve and learn at Trinity, please visit our website, www.trinitypca.org. Audio enhancement units are available from an usher in the Narthex. Our morning service is broadcast live over WNZZ AM 950 at 11:00 a.m. in the metropolitan area and on iHeart Radio on the internet. Archived sermons may be heard at any time on our website: www.trinitypca.org. Complimentary childcare is provided for all worship services.

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Our Purpose: To exalt Christ in metropolitan Montgomery by dynamic and faithful worship, aggressive evangelism both at home and abroad, teaching the Word of God, and equipping members to minister to the spiritual needs of our church and community.

**PASTORAL AND
MINISTRY STAFF**

Claude E. McRoberts, III
Senior Minister

Patrick W. Curles
Executive Minister

S. Michael Howell
Minister of Pastoral Care

W. Robert Pendley
Minister of Discipleship

P. Kurt Cooper
Minister to Youth

Todd Alexander
Director of Music and Organist

Rebecca S. Canerday
*Director of Outreach
and Women's Ministries*

Thomas J. Danielson
Director of Missions

Michael Hogg
Director of Business Operations

Stacy S. Hamilton
Director of Children's Ministry

Mary Cam Shaw
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