

Sermon Text Discussion 11/12/17

Ephesians 1: 3-14 "To God's Glory Alone" by Drew Hunter

Overview

The fifth and final sola of the Reformation was *solī deo gloria*, or for God's glory alone. No one at the time of the Reformation argued against God receiving all the glory. But the Reformers argued that the way God saves His people made clear through the solas is particularly glorifying to God.

Ephesians 1: 3-14 reveals that the Lord saves us "to the praise of His glorious grace". Meaning that God saves us that He might show us just how much He loves us, and that we would enjoy being loved by Him. This salvation flows from a Triune God of love. The Father planned our salvation, the Son accomplished it, and the Spirit applies it. This passage highlights how salvation is a big thing. It means to be chosen, adopted, redeemed, and secure for an eternal future of joy with God. What is God's ultimate goal in planning a salvation like this? God saves us to show us who He is, to put His glory and beauty on display so we might be caught up in praise from the core of our being. If we diminish the way He saves us, we diminish His glory. The gospel shows us God's character of justice, power, wisdom, and love. It displays especially His lavish love. His heart is generous.

Ephesians 1: 3-14

- 1) The God who Saves
- 2) The Way He Saves
- 3) The Ultimate Reason He Saves

Quotation

"To the Father is attributed the beginning of activity, and the fountain and wellspring of all things; to the Son, wisdom, counsel, and the ordered disposition of all things; [and] to the Spirit is assigned the power and efficacy of that activity."

John Calvin
Institutes, 1:143

Understanding & Application

- 1.) How is the final sola, *for God's glory alone*, the capstone of the five solas? What is meant by the statement, 'if you take the "alones" off of any of the other four solas, you cannot keep it on the last one.'?
- 2.) What distinctive roles did each person of the Trinity have in our salvation?
- 3.) Discuss the meaning and personal value of these elements of salvation: Chosen. Adopted. Redeemed. Secure.
- 4.) How is it not selfish of the Lord to save us so His glory is on display?

Acts: The Multiplying Church, to the Ends of the Earth Prepared by: Eric Bobbitt

- 5.) Drew stated that "God gets the glory, we get the joy". How do we try to obtain joy in ways that also robs God of the glory He alone deserves?