

Pastor's Pen

The Five Solas: SOLA GRATIA

...even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved...Eph.2:5

Over the following five pastor pens, I will cover the Five Solas. They are Sola Gratia (Grace Alone), Sola Fide (Faith Alone), Solus Christus (Christ Alone), Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone), and Soli Deo Gloria (To God Alone Be Glory). You may be surprised that the term Five Solas did not originate with Luther, Calvin, Knox, Bunyan, or any other reformer. While the Reformers of the 16th century wrote of all Five Solas in various period writings, they are not all mentioned together in one place and were not systematically brought together until the 20th century.

All of the Solas are primary issues when it comes to Biblical Christianity. These are not secondary issues that we can disagree on and still have fellowship with other believers. For example, we are a Doctrines of Grace Church, but we can still fellowship with a free-will church. Our Presbyterian brothers hold to Covenant Theology and do not believe in a literal Millennial reign of Christ, yet they are still brothers and sisters in Christ.

To be a Christian, you must believe it is by God's grace alone that you are saved. What is grace? Grace is a gift of forgiveness from God. Paul declares, *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as a gift being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;* (Romans 3:23-24). God's grace is underserved, *"who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus from all eternity"* (1 Tim 1:9). To put it plainly we do not deserve God's grace. We deserve justice for our sins against a Holy God. Because of God's grace, His elect gets mercy and not justice.

God's grace gives us the ability to persevere through trials and persecution, *"And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, strengthen, confirm, and ground you"* (1 Peter 5:10). It is God's grace that allowed the martyrs to go to their deaths praising the Lord.

I confess that God's Grace saved me and realize that without His free gift I would be lost and destined to hell.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"The grace that does not make a man better than others is a worthless counterfeit. Christ saves His people, not IN their sins, but FROM their sins. Without holiness, no man shall see the Lord."
—Charles Spurgeon

Grace Gems

Fear not! (Alexander Smellie, "The Secret Place" 1907)

I have many agitations and misgivings. But when heart and flesh faint and fail, my Lord has three whispers for me that banish fear and alarm.

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you!" Isaiah 43:1

My PAST brings me trouble . . . the sins I have committed, the duties I have neglected, the guilt I am chargeable with, the penalty I merit —these make the retrospect of my days and years sad in the extreme.

I have wrecked my own life. I have injured others. I have sinned against God. Sometimes I am overwhelmed by self-contempt. But there is redemption — there is forgiveness. God concerns Himself with the locust-eaten yesterday. He forgives it through the might of Christ's Cross. He may transmute my very sins and errors and falls into means of grace — as nature can convert the battlefield that was strewn with the dead, into the greenest of pastures. He redeems me from my past!

"Fear not, for I am with you!" Isaiah 41:10

My PRESENT stirs in me great disquietude. Apart from my Savior, I am still . . . as weak as water before temptation, an easy prey to the enemy, the willing servant of sin.

But then God remains with me, to preserve . . . my soul from death and my feet from falling and my eyes from tears. By His providence, His Gospel, His Spirit — He sanctifies and makes me holy. I know not which to marvel at more: His suffering for me on the cruel Tree — or His long-suffering with me always.

"Fear not, I will help you!" Isaiah 41:13

The FUTURE has its distresses. Peering ahead, what do I see? Many perplexities, many trials and afflictions, much weariness and struggle.

But my Lord will go before me. As feeble as I am in myself, I shall be more than a conqueror over all the contingencies of the future, when the Lord helps and strengthens me. To His thrice-repeated "Fear not!"

I reply, "I will not fear, for . . .
You have redeemed me,
You are with me, and
You will help me!"



Weekly Gatherings

Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes
Ladies Class
Young Adults Young Parents
Youth Surge
Sunday Morning @ 9:30AM

Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM Men's Bible Study
1st and 3rd Saturday
Women of Grace | 9AM
Wednesdays | 6:30PM AWANA

Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM
Please check church website
for start date and directions to each

Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team
and need to sign up, please contact the
team leader at the appropriate email
address on the back of this bulletin.

Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study & Surge!

Service Times

Sunday Services 8AM & 11:00AM
Sunday School 9:30AM
Children's Church @11:00AM

Giving from service on 11/12/2023

General Offering7,591.32
Building Fund 1,658.50
Uganda Missions 726.00

Total.....\$9,975.82
Attendance 203

Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
Maintenance-maintenance@ghbcva.org
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org
Security-security@ghbcva.org



Grace Harvest
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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

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Welcome