

Pastor's Pen

The Five Solas: Soli Deo Gloria

And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is Yahweh of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory." Isaiah 6:3

We now come to the last of the "Five Solas," "Soli Deo Gloria," which in English means "To God alone the Glory." The great composer Johann Sebastian Bach wrote the initials SDG at the bottom of many of his compositions. He understood that all of our lives should be lived for the glory of God.

Every believer must understand that God alone should receive the glory for our salvation. As Paul declared to the church in Ephesus, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not of works, so that no one may boast (Eph 2:8-9)". By His grace, God gave you the faith to believe in His Son so that He would get the glory for your salvation.

To worship God properly, you must understand your relationship with Him. The Westminster Shorter Catechism states, "Q: What is the chief end of man? A: Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever. 1 Corinthians 10:31: So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." When we understand Sola Gratia, Sola Fide, Solus Christus, and Sola Scriptura, it is easy to give God alone the glory.

You were saved to bring glory to God. We need to ask ourselves if we glorify God in everything we do. Being mere men and women, we will not be able to do it all the time, but ask yourself, is this my desire to glorify God in all that I say and do? As we enter the new year, instead of making a list of resolutions, why don't you strive to live a life that glorifies God?

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

A New Year's Address- James Smith 1849

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever!" Hebrews 13:8

Everything around us is changing and fast passing away! Nothing appears settled or secure! The old year has fled and has told its tale; a new year begins today and will introduce mercies and trials, comforts and distresses, darkness and light. Who can tell what is folded up in the bosom of this year?

Could we look through the coming hours, days, weeks, and months of this year; could we count the head-aches and the heart-aches which await us; the disappointments we shall meet, the vexations we shall experience, the distresses we must pass through—our hearts would perhaps be wrung with anguish, and our minds be clouded with gloom! But these are wisely concealed from our view, and whatever may be our anticipations or forebodings, the Lord meets us on the threshold of this year and assures us that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever!" This is our encouragement, beloved friends. God himself in pity and compassion gives us this sweet, cheering, and animating assurance. Could Jesus change, then we might sink into gloom, despondency, and despair! Creatures may change, and do change for the worse instead of the better—but Jesus is the same. It is impossible that he should be better—for he is altogether perfect. And being perfect—he can never change for the worse. He embodies everything that is amiable, glorious, and inviting in deity; and everything that is excellent, admirable, and sweet in humanity. He blends the attributes of God—and the perfections of man in his sacred character. He is at once our Brother—and our God; our Maker—and our Fellow; our Lord—and our Husband. O admirable mystery! O encouraging connection! O delightful truth!

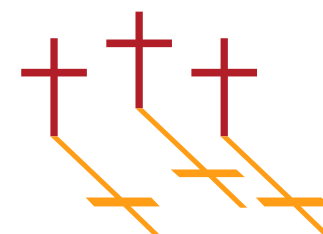
Brethren, what have the Lord's people found Jesus to be in bygone days? That, all that—is Jesus NOW. Yes, this new year's morning he has all that love, kindness, tenderness, pity, compassion, verity, and majesty—which his people in every age have proved him to possess. He who sympathized with the widow of Nain, who had compassion on the hungry multitude, and wept with the sisters of departed Lazarus—is just the same now—as then. He has the same nature, the same heart, and the same fellow feeling.

True we have not the same visible expressions of his tenderness and pity—but they are nevertheless real; he is the same today as he was yesterday, and will be the same forever. We have the same Jesus to deal with—as had the Syrophenician woman, the adulteress at Jacob's well, or the thief upon the cross. He is deeply interested in our welfare, lovingly concerned to do us good, and ready to help us in every time of trouble.

His ear is at every believer's heart—listening to the voice of his sighs, groans, and desires. His eye is observant of the Christian's goings, and marks every step he takes. His hand is stretched out to help him in every time of trial, or circumstance of difficulty. His affections yearn over him with indescribable affection and pity in every affliction or trouble. He loves us dearly. He knows our frame. He considers our circumstances. He pities our weaknesses. He watches our movements. He orders our steps. He instructs our minds. He subdues our sins. He frustrates our enemies. He will never for one moment leave us, nor on any account forsake us! No, he will never turn away from doing us good—but will rejoice over us to do us good with his whole heart, and with his whole soul. Jesus is the same. He is one with us, has suffered like us, and knows by experience what our temptations, trials, and distresses are! He is no stranger to a troubled heart, a pained body, or the distress occasioned by the loss of the divine presence, he has passed through the whole. Therefore my poor, tried, tempted, and distressed brother, or sister in the Lord, learn to look to Jesus—as Jesus—as one touched with the feeling of your infirmities.

Quote of the Week

"Resolution One: I will live for God.
Resolution Two: If no one else does, I still will."
-Jonathan Edwards



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 12/24/2023

General Offering8,655.28
Building Fund 7,750.75
Uganda Missions 1,023.00

Total.....\$17,429.03
Attendance 190

SOS/Uganda Christmas giving so far \$5,459.00

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
Baptist Church
go • gather • grow • go



ghbcva.org | 804.561.3742
9821 South Redfield Drive, Amelia, VA 23002

Grace Harvest Baptist Church

Dec 31, 2023

Welcome