

# SOLI DEO GLORIA

Good Morning Newsong! Good morning to those that are joining us online and good morning to any first time guests we might have today. For the past few weeks we have been studying five truths that came out of the Protestant Reformation. If you remember, Martin Luther and his contemporaries' rejected claims by the Catholic church that salvation could be bought, that the pope was infallible, and that the teaching and tradition of the church was equal to the authority of scripture. Out of this reformation came five Latin statements that served as a summary of the core beliefs of protestants. These state that Christians are saved by grace alone (Sola Gratia), through faith alone (Sola Fide) in Christ alone (Solus Christus) as revealed by scripture alone (Sola Scriptura) all for the glory of God alone (Soli deo Gloria)

Today we are looking at the fifth statement, Soli Deo Gloria, the purpose for which all the others exist. For the Glory of God Alone.

But before we go any further, I thought it might be nice to take a break and listen to some music.

**\*\*Play Brandenburg Concierto No 3**

Does this sound familiar to anyone? Can anyone (except for Kuper) guess who the composer is?

Johann Sebastian Bach is one of the most famous composers to ever live. He influenced every subsequent major composer including Mozart, Beethoven, and many others. Bach was born in Germany into a family of musicians. He was greatly influenced by Martin Luther and his theological foundation. During his lifetime, Bach worked for protestant churches composing hundreds of cantatas and other works. His works bring a sense of awe and are considered masterpieces of music.

**\*\*Show picture of JJ**

Bach was greatly influenced by his religion and the protestant reformation and he often began his compositions with the initials JJ – Jesus Juva, Latin for Jesus, Help me.

**\*\*Show picture of SDG**

Bach would end every composition with the initials SDG, Soli deo Gloria. He began each composition asking for the help of Jesus and ended the composition by stating it was for the Glory of God alone.

What is the Glory of God?

The dictionary states glory is high renown or honor or magnificence or great beauty

But when I look through the Bible it is clear that the Glory of God is so much more.

**Isaiah 6:3 (NIV) says “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”**

This scripture first tells us that God is Holy. Holy is to be separate – set apart, one of a kind – not like anything else. God is holy, holy, holy! He is set apart to the infinite! And then it goes on to say that the earth is full of His glory. God’s unique, set apart qualities shine forth through His creation and thru His redemption. His set apart, holiness appears or is seen through the many facets and perfections of God.

For example, **2 Thessalonians 1:9 (NLT)** speaks of God’s glorious power. **“They will be punished with eternal destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious power.”**

**Ephesians 1:6 (NLT)** speaks of God’s glorious grace, **“So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.”**

To put it in the most basic of terms I know, the Glory of God is the outward manifestation of God’s perfections or His holiness here on Earth.

**Psalms 19:1 (NLT) “The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship.”**

I mean have you ever looked up at the sky or been in an airplane and looked out of the window and it catches your

breath. The sheer beauty, the colors are indescribable, no photo or painting can quite capture..this is what this scripture is talking about! The heavens proclaim the Glory of God! This was God's plan all along. It was the whole reason for creation. To reveal the Glory of God. We were created to proclaim the Glory of God!

**Isaiah 43:7 (NLT) “Bring all who claim me as their God, for I have made them for my glory. It was I who created them.”**

It is the purpose of everything God does.

**Ephesians 1:11-12 (NIV) “In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.”**

**Romans 11:36 (NLT) ‘For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.’**

God planned all creation, all history, all redemption for his glory!

**Romans 9:22 – 23 (NLT) “What if God, although choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath – prepared for destruction? What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory”**

The object of his wrath – that’s us

The object of his mercy – that’s also us!

He has prepared us in advance for what? Glory, His glory!

Based on all of this, I think its clear from scripture that we were created to bring Glory to God Alone, Soli deo Gloria.

But how do we do that and what does it look like?

### **1. Know Him**

First we must Know Him. The glory of God is an attribute of God. In order to understand who He is we must know Him. Knowing who He is – merciful, just, righteous, gracious, long-suffering, patient, holy, loving, and I could go on and on – allows us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind. Matthew 22:36-40. You see when we know God’s character it doesn’t matter what battle or storm we might be facing – we will be able to live Soli deo gloria – for the Glory of God alone – because we can trust that His character is good and loving and so much more. I spoke of this at the

women's retreat this year and was reminded again this week during our sectional ministers' meeting. God is Good! David wrote in Psalms 34, "Taste and see that the Lord is good." He wrote this in a cave while running away from Saul.

You might have this idea that Johann Sebastian Bach had a good life and he lived among the elite and no wonder he was able to compose these amazing works for the Glory of God, but the truth is Bach knew pain, he knew suffering. He lost his mother when he was 9 years old and his father just 10 months later. As an adult, Bach lost his first wife suddenly and then he remarried later on. Between his two wives he had twenty children but only 10 lived to reach adulthood. Bach never knew the full success or impact his music would have. In fact, he had many critics during his day. Those that thought his music was too ornate and made up with unusual embellishments. He even ended up in prison for 4 weeks over a dispute with an employer. Any one of these trials may have made us question God and who He is, especially if you didn't know Him. I think Bach knew God and who He was and that was why he was able to compose the music that he did. Music that exhibited the fullness and expressiveness of the Glory of God like no other music had before. Its interesting to think that after all he had been through and as talented as he was, that

as he sat down to start a new composition he would first write JJ – Jesus, Help me and when the composition was finished he ended it with Soli deo Gloria. What would our lives look like if we started the day saying, “Jesus, Help Me” and we ended each day saying “Glory to God Alone” Bach knew who God was in His life and that He deserved all the Glory and the only way you can truly bring God glory is to know who He is. Paul puts it this way in

### **Ephesian 3:18-21 (NLT)**

**And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.”**

We bring glory to God through knowing him and also through our attitude.

## **2. It’s all about the Heart**

**Colossians 3:23 (NIV) “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”**

My kids love this verse...well actually I love to quote this verse to my kids especially when I have asked them to clean their room or do some chore around the house that they really don't want to do! And you know what comes next...the grumbling!

This verse is clear...Whatever you do! Do it 110% - with all your heart! Whether its something you want to do or not, whether you love your job or not.

Paul also writes this

**1 Corinthians 10:31 (NLT)**

**“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God”**

There it is again, Whatever you do! I don't think it was so much talking specifically about eating or drinking although some of us really know how to do those things 110% (very well) but I think its talking about the every day things the mundane things that maybe you think no one cares about....do those things for the glory of God! It's all about your attitude. It's not about your ability. You see everyone can eat and drink, that doesn't take much ability. It's about the attitude in which you do it. Where is your heart? It's not so much about what you are doing but why you are doing it. A few weeks ago on Mother's



Day, Lyric made me Snickerdoodle cookies. She knows I love homemade snickerdoodles, so she decided to make them for me after church and as she was making them and she was putting them on the pan to cook she realized she had forgot an ingredient. The salt! Now you just have to know Lyric and the way she thinks, she decided she would just add some salt to the outside of each cookie to makeup for salt she missed when mixing in the ingredients. So when she brought me the freshly baked cookies and I popped one into my mouth, my eyes got a little wide because what I thought was sugar sprinkles on the outside of the cookie was actually a lovely sugar and salt mixture. I ate every single cookie she brought me and plus a few more. They really didn't taste too bad, in fact they were kind of good. You want to know why? It wasn't about her ability to make the cookies even though we love to tease her about that, it was about her heart. Her desire to please me and make me happy that made those cookies taste so good! It's no different when your young child brings you a drawing or some type of art work and no one in the whole wide world could tell what it is or what it means but when your child looks at you with a dirty face and dirty hands and tells you that they made it just for you and they are so proud...to you it becomes a masterpiece!

I wonder if God feels the same about us when he looks down at us. Sometimes we've made a mess of our lives.

And we might look a hot mess, but I believe he looks through all the mess and looks at our hearts. And when our heart is in the right place, nothing else really matters. When our hearts are in the right place, we bring Glory to God. In fact some of my most tender and real moments with God, has been when I've made a mess of things. I know it, God knows it, but in that moment all pretenses are gone. I'm just someone who needs no one and nothing else but God.

We can bring Glory to God in all that we do despite the external situations, despite the circumstances, despite your personal agendas, despite what anyone else thinks. We can do this because we know who God is and when we truly know who He is, none of that other stuff even matters. Remember his character is good and our attitude matters!

### **3. Share His Goodness**

Statistics indicate that if I purchase a new product and really like it, I will be more likely to share it. And if I share a personal recommendation for a product with a friend or family member, they are 84% more likely to then purchase that product.

My question is this, by a show of hands, how many of you here came to know Jesus and accept Him as your Lord and Savior because someone introduced you to Him? Meaning how many of you here today came to know Christ because of someone else?

Isn't that amazing? What does that say to us?

We bring Glory to God when we talk about His goodness and his character and the attributes that make Him who he is. Because when we do that we are laying the seeds of salvation. We are introducing those around us to who God is, even if in an indirect manner.

**1Peter 2:9 (NLT)**

**“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light”**

**Psalms 96:1-4 (NIV)**

**“Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.”**

Remember we were created to bring Glory to God Alone and we are part of God’s plan for redemption when we share who He is with those that don’t know him.

Even the angels were a part of that plan in Luke 2:14 they appeared to the shepherds out in the field and said, “Glory to God in the highest” Gloria in Excelsis Deo! When we tell others about the Glory of God we are not making God bigger because he is already big. We are not making him great, he is already the greatest. We are not making him powerful, he is already omnipotent.

It doesn't in any way change who He is but what it does is it helps others see Him better.

It's like a magnifying glass. If I took out a magnifying glass to read the words on this page, I'm not making the page or the words bigger, I'm just helping to see it better. That is what we do when we share the Goodness of God with others. God is who He is. It has nothing to do with you, but you can help others see Him better!

#### **4. Worship Him**

Last but certainly not least, we bring Glory to God when we worship Him. So as the worship team comes up, I want to read

#### **Psalms 148 (NIV)**

**Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above. Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts. Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining**

**stars. Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies. Let them praise the name of the Lord, for at his command they were created, and he established them for ever and ever – he issued a decree that will never pass away. Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, young men and women, old men and children. Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens, And he has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel, the people close to his heart. Praise the Lord”**

In whatever way we can bring praise to God we are called to do so. You may not write a cantata like Bach and you may not be able to play the guitar like Kuper or sing like Alyse but here and now you can make an expression of praise and bring glory to his name. I mean we were created to bring Glory to God, that is why we were created! Contrary to what you might believe, the world does not revolve around you. In fact if you choose

not to worship God, scripture says in Luke 19:40 that the rocks will cry out in praise and you just heard in the verses we just read that all creation is praising God.

From the stars in the sky to the oceans deep. In studying for this message I came upon a sermon by Louie Giglio and he was talking about how we have satellites that's are constantly recording the sounds in outer space and the stars actually make noise and sing.

Some sound like drums and some like strings in an orchestra. And I'm no scientist but he also shares how whales makes noises that sound like a song. So Louie Giglio during his message takes unedited recordings of certain stars and unedited recordings of some whales and syncs them together and I can't really describe this with any fairness so I'm just going to play it for you.

### **\*\*Play Louie Giglio Video**

Worship team continues to play How Great is Our God

### **Jude 24 & 25 (NLT)**

**Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will bring you with great joy into his glorious presence without a single fault. All glory to him who alone is God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord. All glory, majesty, power, and authority are his before all time, and in the present, and beyond all time! Amen.**

Church we are made right with God by grace alone  
through faith alone in Christ alone as revealed in  
Scripture alone all for the glory of God alone.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Lets worship Him