

The Five Solas

OF THE REFORMATION

[PART 4]

SOLI FIDI

Reading: Romans 5:1 - 2 & Ephesians 2:8 - 9

Introduction

- The 5 sola's of the Reformation served (and indeed still do) as a beacon in the spiritual darkness.
- Sola Scriptura, solus Christus, sola gratis, soli fidi & sola Deo gloria.
- We are now looking at the 4th of these beacons.

1 Soli Fidi Or Faith Alone

- Luther: *'without faith alone the church of God could not exist for one hour.'*
- God has provided a great salvation but how do we avail ourselves of it? How does it come into our possession?
- Rome said (indeed still does) by faith + works. (Faith + works = justification/salvation.)
- The Reformers say *'by faith alone.'* (Faith = justification/salvation + works.)

2 Justification?

- This is a legal word with its origin in the law courts.
- The sinner stands condemned in the dock of God's courtroom.
- Justification describes the act of the Judge acquitting the accused.

- He acquits them on the basis of their faith in what Christ did for them on the cross.
- God exercised His justice on the substitute.
- Consider: [Romans 5:1 - 2] and [Romans 8:1].

3 Rome And The Counter Reformation

- Rome was haemorrhaging 100's of 1000's as a result of '*faith alone*' and '*scriptura alone*.'
- Their response was the '*Council of Trent*' between 1545 & 1563.
- Canon 9, '*if anyone says that the sinner is justified by faith alone, meaning nothing else is required let him be anathema.*'
- Consider: [Ephesians 2:8 - 9] and [Romans 3:28] and [Galatians 2:16].
- Faith Alone.

4 What About James 2:24?

- James uses the phrase '*justified by works and NOT by faith alone.*'
- Is this a contradiction? No!
- When Paul is dealing with faith alone he is addressing how it is before/prior to salvation.
- When James says '*not faith alone*' he is addressing a situation after post salvation.
- Works is not the means too salvation but they are the evidence/ fruit that salvation has indeed come to the individual.
- Paul and James are not contradicting each other - they are complimenting each other.

5 What Is Genuine Saving Faith?

- It consists of 3 essential components:-
 - Biblical content.
 - Assent too/belief in that content.
 - Trust and commitment.
- When the content drops the 18 inches from the head into the heart and the penitent says, '*I sinner do take you Jesus as my Saviour and Lord for better for worse, to love and to cherish till death or your return.*'

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