

Glory to God Alone

Psalm 19:1-3; Ephesians 1:3-14

Christians are called Protestants because they hold to the belief of the reformers, summarized in the Five Solas: Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone) – that the Bible alone is the Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. Sola Fide (Faith Alone) – that we are forgiven our sins and counted righteous in God’s sight solely by trusting in Christ, Sola Gratia (Grace Alone) – that our salvation is not earned in any part; it is the free gift of God from start to finish, Solus Christus (Christ Alone) – that Jesus Christ is the only savior of sinners and His atoning sacrifice is sufficient to save those who trust in Him, and Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God Alone) – that the ultimate end of all God’s works in creation and redemption is His own glory alone.

God’s glory stands for all that He is and therefore we His people must glorify Him.

God’s glory speaks of His value, His riches, His majesty, His dignity. God’s glory is the radiant splendor of God that is displayed both in His character and in His works (Exo. 33:8-9). God possesses glory in Himself (intrinsic glory - Psalm 29:3 Isaiah 6:3, Exo. 16:10; 24:16, Num. 16:24, 1 Kings 8:11, 2 Chro. 5:14, Lev. 9:6,23; Num. 14:10. But there is also the aspect of God’s glory which is the response of His people to His character. Giving glory to God means to magnify His glory before the world (Psa. 29:1-2, 1 Cor. 6:19-20, John 8:12, cf. Matt. 5:14-16). Consider two reasons why all glory belongs to God alone.

1. All Glory Belongs to God Alone Because He is _____

God is revealed in Scripture as Creator of all things (Psalm 19:1) Paul says in Rom. 11:36, *For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.*”

Everything that has being, everything that has existence comes because God has brought it into being. God does not only create all things, He also sustains all things. But of all of God’s creation, man is most precious to Him (Psalm 8:3-8; 100:3; 139:14. Rev. 4:11).

2. All Glory Belongs to God Because He is _____

The Father has chosen us in Christ and adopted us to be His children (vv.4-6). God’s work of election shows us that salvation begins with God and not with man (Exo 33:19). Left to himself, man will never choose God (John 6:44, 65; 8:34; Rom. 3:10-11, 1 Cor. 2:14). God takes the initiative to seek sinners (Eph. 2:4-5), choosing them before the foundation of the world according to His good pleasurable will (Eph. 1:4-5; 2 Tim 1:9) and predestining them unto holy and righteous living *“to the praise of the glory of His praise.”*

This is accomplished through the penal substitutionary death of Jesus (Eph. 1:7, Mark 10:45, Gal. 3:10-13; 2 Cor. 5:21). Because of His atoning death, the believers become the Father’s love gift to the Son (v. 12; Phil. 2:9). The Holy Spirit applies and seals our redemption (v. 13). Sealing signifies ownership (1 Cor. 6:19-20), authenticity Rom. 8:9), security (John 14:16-17) and finality (Eph. 1: 14).

All glory belongs to God alone because of who He is, and for what He does. While it’s true that we could never increase or diminish the glory of God, God has given us the wonderful privilege of reflecting and celebrating His radiant splendor. “Man’s chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.” Do you want to enjoy God forever? Then live to glorify Him alone.