

Sola Fide, Gratia, Scriptura
Teaching Lesson #32
Pastor's Lesson

Our Christian walk has three pillars that become the foundation of everything we believe. Each pillar helps us determine whether something is true or not. What I mean by that is whether or not it comes from God or from something or someone else.

Sola Fide	=	"by faith alone"
Sola Gratia	=	"by grace alone"
Sola Scriptura	=	"by scriptures alone"

Read Matt. 7:24-27

As you look at these three phrases, basically what we want you to think about when someone builds something and its building structure and support. If you were to build your faith on these three Latin phrases you would be like the wise man who built his house upon the rock, if you go outside of these three main understandings you would be building your house of faith on un-steady foundations.

Sola Fide (Faith Alone)

To understand this, we must first ask why would "by faith alone" be an important phrase? Faith has a most direct impact on our understanding of salvation, as do all of these phrases. God put together a plan for our salvation. What is salvation, what is God's plan for our salvation? 1.) Heaven 2.) It is how a person is allowed entrance into heaven. 3.) It is how a person is made right with God (also known as justification)

Jer. 29:13 "You will seek and find me when you seek me with all you heart." God wants us to seek. He wants us to have questions. Questions about faith make us aware of how great our God really is and how little we truly understand. This truly shows us there is a huge gap between our understanding of God and God's plan for each of our lives. That gap is where living by "faith" comes into play. It is said that Faith is being certain of what we cannot see. It is truly a "HOPEFUL" expectation of what is to come. Faith is believing in the truth of Jesus Christ life, death, and resurrection for our sins. On this will get you to salvation in heaven.

Sola Gratia (Grace Alone)

Have you ever received something that you totally didn't deserve or didn't do anything to earn that reward. Grace works in the same way. We saved from our sins through faith in Jesus through the Grace of God. Grace means an unwarranted and un-merited gift from God. We don't deserve heaven as we are all born sinful.

God's
Riches
At
Christ's
Expense

The emphasis was in contradiction to the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church. Catholic doctrine held that salvation is made possible only by grace; the faith and works of men are secondary means that have their origins in and are sustained by grace.

Martin Luther, during the reformation, spoke on and believed the Roman Catholic view of the means of salvation to be a mixture of reliance upon the grace of God, and confidence in the merits of one's own works performed in love, something we would even call legalism today.

As Lutheran Christians we would say that salvation is entirely comprehended in God's gifts (that is, God's act of free grace), dispensed by the Holy Spirit according to the redemptive work of Jesus Christ alone. Nothing we do better our sinful life, it is what God does for us through Grace.

Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone)

Have you ever went on a trip and had to stop and ask directions. It is amazing how confused you can get when you don't know the "lay of the land" and all the little turns in a city or country side. One person once gave me directions and by the time I went out into the country following his turns and such, I truly was lost and confused as to where it was that I was at. I was really wishing that I had a road map at that point (this was before GPS) to help find my way. In the same way, God's Word (Scripture) is our road map in our faith walk. Martin Luther, took issue with the Roman Catholic Church, because they were treating the words (and direction) or the pope as if it was equal to the words of God. Luther wrote and preached on the true directions of one's faith should be by following the WORD OF GOD which comes from the Bible. As Christians today, and as Lutherans, we believe that "Sola Scriptura" it is by Scripture alone that we find absolute authority. 2 Tim 3:16 ---"Scripture is God breathed...." John 1:1-4 "In the beginning was the "WORD"....

It is because of this pillar that we reject fast faiths like Mormonism or Islam, as the Bible is the source of truth and redemption.