

## Sola Jesus

At the end of this month, we celebrate the anniversary of the Reformation. In the foundation of Reformation teachings rest the "Three Solas," Sola Gratia (Grace Alone: We are saved solely by God's grace, not anything we do.), Sola Fide (We are saved solely through faith that Jesus died to take away all of our sin--and incidentally, that faith is also a gift of God, not a human work), and Sola Scriptura (All we know about God is found in Scripture, not human opinion, since opinion is prone to error.)

All three of these teachings connect to each other, depend on each other, and are grounded in each other. We know of salvation by grace through faith because of Scripture, etc. Yet we are horribly prone to introduce human opinion into our beliefs, wanting God to fit into our ideas, time frames, and experiences.

Unless you are omniscient and sinless (and unless you're Jesus, neither of those words describe you), beginning a statement about God with "I think" will lead to errors and is the source of most of the heresy (false teachings) in the church throughout history, including today. That is not to say you can "proof-text" every teaching, expecting one or two verses to explain the "hidden mysteries of God"--many of our teachings come from centuries of examining and comparing texts- but before you say or think something about God, ask yourself, "Where did I get this information?"

But thank God that His Word is indeed trustworthy and true. In spite of our ego-driven theologies He is still the gracious God Who sent His Son to empty Himself for us who are often full of ourselves, surrendering all "for us men and for our salvation," solely by grace.