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2017

# AMAZING GRACE

*The Reformation to the Glory of God*



FIVE

SOLAS

# AMAZING GRACE

*The Reformation to the Glory of God*

**SO**L**A**

saved by

**GR**AT**IA**

Grace alone

**SO**L**A**

through

**FID**E

Faith alone

**SO**L**U**S

in

**CHR**IST**U**S

Christ alone

**SO**L**A**

according to

**SCR**IPT**U**R**A**

Scripture alone

**SO**L**I**

for the

**DE**O **GL**OR**IA**

glory of God alone





*Jo. Calvin*

THE  
INSTITUTION  
OF THE  
CHRISTIAN RELIGION:  
IN FOUR BOOKS

TARGET

- I. Of the Knowledge of GOD the CREATOR.  
II. Of the Knowledge of GOD the GOVERNOR.  
III. Of the Means how to acquire the Grace of CHRIST.  
IV. Of the Duties of Man in Relation to his Neighbour.

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By JOHN CALVIN.

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GLASSGOW,

Printed by JOHN BIRCH and ALGERNON WILKINSON, Booksellers,  
in ALBANY STREET, near the Theatre.  
MDCCLXXII.

**Today's Sermon:**  
*Soli Deo Gloria: Glory to God Alone*

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*Soli Deo Gloria: Glory to God Alone*

*Who would disagree with this?*



So what does glory mean?

glo ry  
'glôre/

*noun*

1. high renown or honor won by notable achievements.

*synonyms:*

renown, fame, prestige, honor, distinction, kudos, eminence, acclaim, praise...

2. magnificence or great beauty.

*synonyms:*

magnificence, splendor, resplendence, grandeur, majesty, greatness, nobility...

# What is *the glory of God*?

Sometimes it is used to signify what is:

- *internal, inherent, or in the possession of the person (excellency, dignity, or worthiness )*
- *and sometimes for emanation, exhibition, or communication of this internal glory*
- *and sometimes for the knowledge, or sense of these, in those to whom the exhibition or communication is made*
- *or an expression of this knowledge, sense, or effect.*

**We have been created in a way that we can  
only find real satisfaction in this life when  
we give God all the glory**

# Big Question

*If God's glory alone implies human debasement,  
is such a God really worthy of our praise?*

## Genesis 1:26-28

26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

## Genesis 1:26-28

28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

THE MAGICIAN'S  
NEPHEW



*A Story for Children by*  
C. S. LEWIS



And now, for the first time, the Lion was quite silent. He was going to and fro among the animals. And every now and then he would go up to two of them (always two at a time) and touch their noses with his. He would touch two beavers among all the beavers, two leopards among all the leopards, one stag and one deer among all the deer, and leave the rest. Some sorts of animal he passed over altogether. But the pairs which he had touched instantly left their own kinds and followed him.



At last he stood still and all the creatures whom he had touched came and stood in a wide circle around him. The others whom he had not touched began

to wander away. Their noises faded gradually into the distance.

The chosen beasts who remained were now utterly silent, all with their eyes fixed intently upon the Lion. The cat-like ones gave an occasional twitch of the tail but otherwise all were still.

For the first time that day there was complete silence, except for the noise of running water. Digory's heart beat wildly; he knew something very solemn was going to be done.... The Lion, whose eyes



at the animals as hard as if he was going to burn them up with his mere stare. And gradually a change came over them.

The smaller ones — the rabbits, moles, and such-like — grew a good deal larger. The very big ones — you noticed it most with the elephants — grew a little smaller. Many animals sat up on their hind legs. Most put their heads on one side as if they were trying very hard to understand. The Lion opened his mouth, but no sound came from it; he was breathing out, a long, warm breath; it seemed to sway all the beasts as the wind sways a line of trees.

Then, the wildest voice they had ever heard was saying: “Narnia, Narnia, Narnia, awake. Love. Think. Speak. Be walking trees. Be talking beasts.”



It was of course the Lion's voice. The children had long felt sure that he could speak: yet it was a lovely and terrible shock when he did. Out of the trees wild people stepped forth, gods and goddesses of the wood; with them came Fauns and Satyrs and Dwarfs.

Out of the river rose the river god with his Naiad daughters.

And all these and all the beasts and birds in their different voices, low or high or thick or clear, replied: "Hail, Aslan. We hear and obey. We are awake. We love. We think. We speak. We know."

"Creatures, I give you yourselves," said the strong, happy voice of Aslan. "I give to you forever this land of Narnia. I give you the woods, the fruits, the rivers. I give you the stars and I give you myself. The Dumb Beasts whom I have not chosen are yours also."

Treat them gently and cherish them but do not go back to their ways lest you cease to be Talking Beasts. For out of them you were taken and into them you can return. Do not do so.” “No, Aslan, we won’t, we won’t,” said everyone.

# God's Glory Revealed in Nature



## Ps 19:1-4

1 The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

2 Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night they reveal knowledge.

3 They have no speech, they use no words;  
no sound is heard from them.

4 Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,  
their words to the ends of the world.

[Creation is a] beautiful theatre, a theatre of the divine glory. Every part of the world, some lineaments of divine glory are beheld. Because the glory of his power and wisdom is more refulgent in the firmament, it is frequently designated as his palace.



And, first, where you turn your eyes, there is no portion of the world, however minute, that does not exhibit at least some sparks of beauty; while it is impossible to contemplate the vast beautiful fabric as it extends around, without being overwhelmed by the immense weight of glory.



## Job 38:1-11

1 Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm. He said:

2 “Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge?

3 Brace yourself like a man;  
I will question you,  
and you shall answer me.

4 “Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation?

## Job 38:1-11

Tell me, if you understand.

5 Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know!

Who stretched a measuring line across it?

6 On what were its footings set,  
or who laid its cornerstone—

7 while the morning stars sang together  
and all the angels j shouted for joy?

8 “Who shut up the sea behind doors

## Job 38:1-11

when it burst forth from the womb,

9 when I made the clouds its garment  
and wrapped it in thick darkness,

10 when I fixed limits for it

and set its doors and bars in place,

11 when I said, 'This far you may come and no  
farther;

here is where your proud waves halt'?

# God's Glory Revealed in Humanity

## Psalm 8:5-6

5 You have made them a little lower than the  
angels  
and crowned them with glory and honor.

6 You made them rulers over the works of your  
hands;  
you put everything under their feet:



## Hebrews 2:5-9

5 It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking.

6 But there is a place where someone has testified:

“What is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
a son of man that you care for him?

7 You made them a little lower than the angels;  
you crowned them with glory and honor

## Hebrews 2:5-9

8 and put everything under their feet.”,  
In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. 9 But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

## Romans 8:17-18

17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

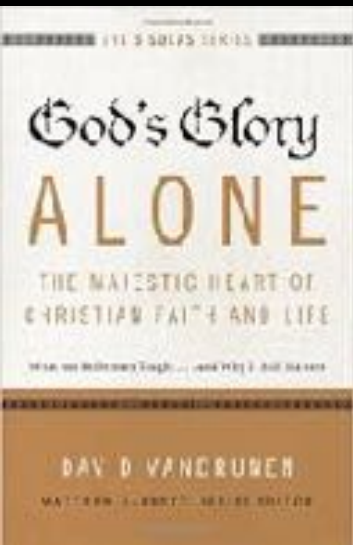
18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

## Big Question

*If God's glory alone implies human debasement,  
is such a God really worthy of our praise?*

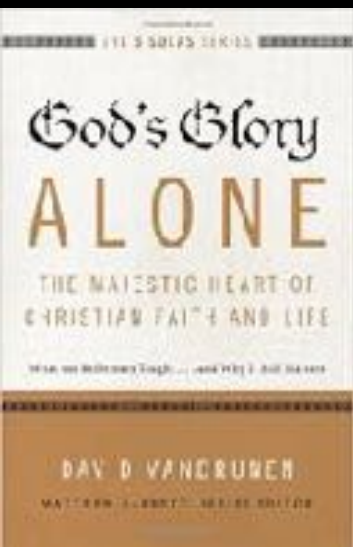
*Does Scripture then contradict the Reformation  
slogan of Soli Deo Gloria?*

God glorifies himself, and we can live for his glory, but only along a path that unaided human reason could never have discovered and would never have dared imagine. The way to God's glory winds through the lowliness and desolation of Calvary.



~ David Vandrunen, *God's Glory Alone---The Majestic Heart of Christian Faith and Life: What the Reformers Taught and Why It Still Matters* (The Five Solas Series) page 18

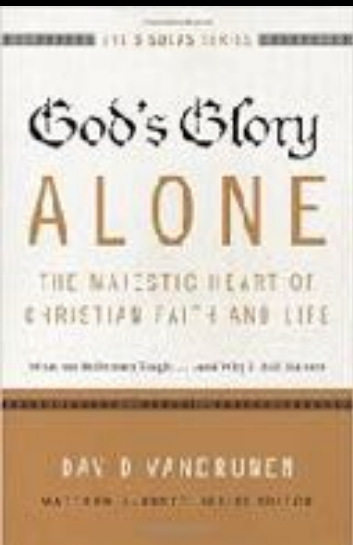
One way to put it is that the all-wise and loving God is pleased to glorify himself precisely through the glorification of his human creation. Our glory, such as it is, redounds back to God's glory. From a different angle we might also say



that precisely through acknowledging and seeking God's glory alone, human beings attain their highest destiny and enjoy their proper dignity.

~ David Vandrunen, *God's Glory Alone---The Majestic Heart of Christian Faith and Life: What the Reformers Taught and Why It Still Matters* (The Five Solas Series) page 19

God simultaneously makes us instruments for glorifying him and causes us to enjoy him as we ascribe to him all the glory: the “chief end of man” is “to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.” In God’s glory is our dignity. In God’s glory is our delight. Our glorification lies in ascribing all glory in heaven and earth to him.



~ David Vandrunen, *God's Glory Alone---The Majestic Heart of Christian Faith and Life: What the Reformers Taught...and Why It Still Matters* (The Five Solas Series), page 19

# Big Question

*If God's glory alone implies human debasement,  
is such a God really worthy of our praise?*

## Answer

*By seeking God's glory alone, humans attain  
their highest destiny and enjoy their proper  
dignity*



# Gospel Application:

*Are you gladly reflecting the glory of God?*

*Are you satisfied?*