

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of November 26, 2017

This Week's Focus: The Five Solas of the Reformation: *Soli Deo Gloria*

This Week's Text: Isaiah 43:6-7; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, 6; Romans 11:33-36

"By holding forth *Soli Deo Gloria*, as the lifeblood of the Solas, we remind ourselves that the biblical religion recaptured by the Reformation is not ultimately about ourselves, but about God. Our focus so easily becomes self-centered, even when we ask the same important questions that occupied the reformers: where can I find God's authoritative revelation? How can I escape the wrath of God? What must I do to be saved? The other four Solas provide necessary and life-changing answers to such questions, but *Soli Deo Gloria* puts them in proper perspective; the highest purpose of God's plan of salvation in Christ, made known in Scripture, is not our own beatitude, wonderful as that is. The highest purpose is God's own glory. God glorifies himself through the abundant blessings he bestows upon us." **Dr. David Vandrunen**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What has the Holy Spirit impressed on your heart and mind from this week's sermon/text?
- Briefly define and discuss the five *Solas* that we have studied – *Sola Scripture*, *Sola Gratia*, *Sola Fide*, *Solus Christus*, *Soli Deo Gloria*. Why were these declarations championed by the Reformers, what were they in opposition to, and why are they still important for us today?
- What was God's purpose for creating the world? Did he create the world out of a sense of loneliness or lack? What does it mean that humans were made in the *Imago Dei* (image and likeness of God) and what does it tell us about our purpose? Reference Genesis 2 and Isaiah 43:6-7.
- What is God's glory and holiness? How are the two related? Reference Isaiah 6:1-3.
- Read Romans 1:25. Why do we exchange the glory of God for inferior gods? Why doesn't the glory of idols or the joy of serving them ever last?
- How do we know when we have made an idol out of something? Is there something in your life that has recently taken the place of highest esteem?

- Why can God alone demand that we glorify him in worship? Reference Psalm 16:11. Where does God most prominently showcase his glory to the world?
- Read Romans 9:11-23 and 11:25-36. How is God's glory being displayed in his sovereign election? Do you share in Paul's excitement and praise in verses 34-36?
- One of the emphases of the Reformers was the *priesthood of all believers*, the calling of every believer to glorify God with their whole lives. Reference 1 Corinthians 10:31. Share some ways we can reflect God's glory by declaring and demonstrating the gospel at work, home, school, recreation, and even in the seemingly mundane tasks of life.