

1. THE FIVE SOLAS OF THE GOSPEL: Ephesians 1:1-14

by Brett Baggett on Sunday, November 1st, 2020

THEME/INTRO: “God rescues sinners from the misery of His wrath—*both in this life and in the life to come*—by grace alone, on the authority of the Scripture alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, so that He may be gloried in and glorified alone!”

I. GOD RESCUES SINNERS BY GRACE ALONE (v. 11)

Ephesians 1:11 “In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,”

- **Q. What does it mean to be “predestined”?** **A.** It means that, if you are in Christ or you would go to Him now in faith, before the foundation of the world you were *planned, picked, and promised* by God the Father; you have been *provided* for and *purchased* by Jesus Christ; you are now *protected* by the Holy Spirit; and you will one day be *perfected* in the presence of God when Jesus makes everything new.
 - God the Father *picked* you and *promised* His Son would come to *procure* you;
 - The Eternal Son of God—the Lord Jesus Christ—came to the earth, *provided* a righteousness for you through His perfect life, and then *purchased* you through His death and resurrection.
 - The Father and the Son then send the Holy Spirit to bring you to faith and *protect* you all the way to glory where you will be *perfected*. *Oh praise be to the Prince of Providence!*
- **Deuteronomy 29:29** “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.” **CHILDREN Q.** *Did you know God has secrets?*
- **CALVIN:** “The *secret* things of God are not to be scrutinized. Those things which He has *revealed* are not to be overlooked.”
- **THOMAS WATSON:** “It is absurd to think that anything in us could have the least influence upon our election. Some say that God foresaw that such persons would believe, and therefore chose them; so they would make the business of salvation to depend upon something in us. Whereas God does not choose us for faith—but to faith. “He has chosen us, that we should be holy” (Ephesians 1:4), not because we would be holy—but that we might be holy. We are elected to holiness, not for it.”
- **Q.** Do you think you in some way attracted the predestining work of God because He foresaw that you would have faith?
- **Any Church or ministry or person who turns the grace of God in redemption into something that I can attract OR resist** has left the authority of the Scriptures & stands on the sinking sand of worldly wisdom & philosophy. (v.11)
- **Romans 11:6** “But if [election] is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.”
- **This is why the Canons of Dort were written!** To protect the Church from the heresy that says, “God saves you but He needs your help!”

II. GOD RESCUES SINNERS ON THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE ALONE (v. 12-13a)

Ephesians 1:12-13a “12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13a In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation,”

- **The reason the Church at large needed Reformation in the 16th century is because they lived as though the tradition of the Church and the words of the Pope were equal to Scripture.** Thus God used a wiry Monk to launch the Protestant Reformation!
- **The reason we need further Reformation today is because in many local Churches live in the same way.** Tradition, Philosophy, Pragmatism, Worldly-wisdom, and Idolatry run rampant while many thrust the Bible aside to collect dust.
- **We need God to Reform His church again!**
 - **Many act and talk like they believe in the authority, inerrancy, clarity, necessity, and sufficiency of Scripture,** but few pastors and church members live like it!
 - **Many give a mental assent to the Doctrines of Grace** yet few do ministry like they believe it!
 - **Many would confess with their mouths the Five Solas** yet deny with their actions that they have the slightest clue what the Gospel is really all about.
- **Q. Would you please come pray with me and your other pastors on Sunday mornings at 930 in my office?** We have been praying for two years for renewal, revival, and reformation and we are starting to see a glimmer of that precious crystal! Join us in prayer!
- **We must greatly oppose the Idolatry inside and outside of the Church in our day, yet we must always do it by first taking the log out of our own eye and then we will be able to take the speck out of our brothers.** In addition, we must oppose idolatry with our feet firmly planted on Christ Jesus and our mouths and fingers and pens filled with God’s words in Scripture!
- **MARTIN LUTHER:** “I opposed indulgences and all the papists, but never with force. I simply taught, preached, and wrote God’s Word; otherwise I did nothing. And while I slept [cf. Mark 4:26-29], or drank Wittenberg beer with my friends Philip and Amsdorf, the Word so greatly weakened the papacy that no prince or emperor ever inflicted such losses upon it. I did nothing; the Word did everything.”
- **This is why Luther spent his time in hiding translating the Bible into German! This is why William Tyndale went into exile and was always singing one note!**

III. GOD RESCUES SINNERS THROUGH FAITH ALONE (v. 13b)

Ephesians 1:13b “and believed in him”

- **ARCHBISHOP** in the Tower of London, speaking to an imprisoned Protestant: “You ground your faith upon such authors as say and unsay, both with a breath, and not upon the church, to whom you ought to give credit.”
- **PROTESTANT**: “No, I ground my faith upon God’s word, and not upon the church; for if the church be a good church, the faith of the church must be tried by God’s word, and not God’s word by the church.”
- **Q.** Who was this Protestant Reformer who fired back at the Archbishop of Rome with a fierce devotion to the Scriptures alone? **A.** **17 year old Lady Jane Grey in 1553.** ***CHILDREN—especially the girls—this is what a Hero (Heroin) looks like!***
- **ARCHBISHOP**: “Why, then it is necessary unto salvation to do good works also; it is not sufficient only to believe.”
- **LADY JANE GREY**: “I deny that, and I affirm that faith only saveth; but it is (proper) for a Christian to do good works, in token that he follows the steps of his Master, Christ; yet we may not say that they profit to our salvation; for when we have done all, we are unprofitable servants, and faith only in Christ saves us.”
- **This is the article upon which the Church stands or falls—God justifies sinners through faith alone, apart from works!**

IV. GOD RESCUES SINNERS IN CHRIST ALONE (v. 13c-14a)

Ephesians 1:13c-14a “13c and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14a who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it,”

- **It is the object of faith that saves us, not the action of faith!**
- **FLAVAL**: “Out of Christ’s condemnation—flows our justification! Out of His agony—comes our victory! Out of His pain—comes our ease! Out of His stripes—comes our healing! Out of His gall and vinegar—comes our honey! Out of His curse—comes our blessing! Out of His crown of thorns—comes our crown of glory! Out of His death—comes our life! O what a melting consideration is this . . . Jesus is the fountain, ocean, and center of all delights and joys!”
- (1) Imagine your Mother dies just past your third birthday. (2) Go into your vocation reluctantly; having to be essentially threatened to do the job. (3) You’re in charge of a great number of things but only 27 years old (in a culture where age matters). (4) You’re a foreigner (in a place where being a local matters). (5) You don’t get paid anything for the first eight months of your work. (6) Shortly after starting you get a toothache and consequently an infection. It is so terribly painful that you can’t get out of bed for nine days. (7) After two years of strife and conflict with those you serve, you’re fired (from the very job you were begged to do in the first place!). (8) Then something fantastic happens. You are married! But your first child, your only child, dies as an infant. (9) Your wife is struck with illness after illness, so much so that she is essentially bed-ridden for almost half of your life together. (10) And just shy of your tenth anniversary, your wife dies... and you’re left standing beside her and your daughters’ grave. (11) By the time you turn fifty, you suffer from gout, repeated bouts with intestinal parasites, tuberculosis, and frequent migraines. (12) The last few months of working, you have to be carried to and from your home to perform the tasks assigned to you. (13) And you spend the last painful weeks of your life in bed—at age fifty five, you die. **THIS IS THE LIFE OF THE GREAT REFORMER JOHN CALVIN.**
- **Born 1509 in France.** At twelve years of age he was sent to the university of Paris. Though he was set on being merely an academic, later his roommate in Paris began to be influenced by what the Reformers were pointing out in the Bible. And that was how Jesus saved John Calvin. When he was 25, after being a Christian only a year, he published his first edition of a book titled, “Institutes of the Christian Religion” (systematic theology). He didn’t even release the book under his own name—he created the pseudonym Martinus Luceunus. Strasbourg > Geneva > Farrell > 2 years pastoring > fired > few years later he’s begged to come back > picks up preaching in the exact same passage he left off in > He had a company of Pastors that he trained > Geneva became a Missionary sending city > 2,000 frenchmen came to Geneva, trained, funded by Geneva, and sent back into France to plant churches. Geneva even sent missionaries to the shores of Brazil to plant churches by planting the gospel. Under the leadership of Calvin, took refugees in. Many refugees from Florence came to Geneva having been skilled in making little Roman Catholic Icons of Jesus, crosses, Mary, etc. Calvin encouraged them to stop making Icons and to begin making watches. Why is Switzerland known for watches still to this day? John Calvin. Geneva’s even removed the roofs off their houses in order to build more stories for housing the refugees as they fled England during the reign of Bloody Mary.
- **Q.** Why would he endure all of that? Because knowing Christ Jesus and making Him known is more precious than anything else!
- **John Calvin, in the preface to a 1535 translation of the New Testament, wrote this:**
- “[Jesus] is Isaac, the beloved Son of the Father who was offered as a sacrifice, but nevertheless did not succumb to the power of death.
- He is Jacob the watchful shepherd, who has such great care for the sheep which he guards.
- He is the good and compassionate brother Joseph, who in his glory was not ashamed to acknowledge his brothers, however lowly and abject their condition.
- He is the great sacrificer and [priest] Melchizedek, who has offered an eternal sacrifice once for all.
- He is the sovereign lawgiver Moses, writing his law on the tables of our hearts by his Spirit.
- He is the faithful captain and guide Joshua, to lead us to the Promised Land.
- He is the victorious and noble king David, bringing by his hand all rebellious power to subjection.
- He is the magnificent and triumphant king Solomon, governing his kingdom in peace and prosperity.
- He is the strong and powerful Samson, who by his death has overwhelmed all his enemies.
- This is what we should in short seek in the whole of Scripture: truly to know Jesus Christ, and the infinite riches that are comprised in him and are offered to us by him from God the Father. If one were to sift thoroughly the Law and the Prophets, he would not find a single word which would not draw and bring us to him. . . . Therefore, rightly does Saint Paul say in another passage that he would know nothing except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ***CHILDREN, you need to constantly tell your mom and dad, “Please, we wish to see Jesus!”***

V. GOD RESCUES SINNERS FOR HIS GLORY ALONE (v. 14b)

Ephesians 1:14b “to the praise of his glory.”

- **Now we come to it. This is the reason God created the world—to glorify Himself! To the praise of His glory!**
- **Q.** WHY does God save by grace alone, on the authority of Scripture alone, by faith alone, in Christ alone? **A.** God rescues sinners from their misery by grace alone so that He is gloried in alone and therefore glorified alone!