

The West End Herald

Second Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC



FIVE PILLARS OF THE REFORMATION

This article concludes the discussion of “pillars” or *solas* (only or alone) that framed the entire sixteenth-century debate and still instruct and edify us today.

- 1 “Only Scripture,”
- 2 “Only Christ,”
- 3 “Only Grace,”
- 4 “Only Faith,” and
- 5 “To God Alone Be Glory”

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November 1, 2026

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SOLI DEO GLORIA . . .

OUR ONLY AMBITION

The world is full of ambitious people. But Paul said, “It has always been my ambition to preach the Gospel where Christ was not known.” (Rom 15:20). Since God has spoken so clearly and saved so finally, the believer is free to worship, serve, and glorify God and to enjoy him forever, beginning now. What is the ambition of the evangelical movement? Is it to please God or to please men?



Is our happiness and joy found in God or in someone or something else? Is our worship entertainment or worship? Is God’s glory or our self-fulfillment the goal of our lives? Do we see God’s grace as the only basis for our salvation, or are we still seeking some of the credit for ourselves? These questions reveal a glaring human-centeredness in the evangelical churches and the general witness of our day.

Robert Schuller actually says that the Reformation “erred because it was God-centered rather than man-centered,” and Yale’s George Lindbeck observes how quickly evangelical theology accepted this new gospel: “In the fifties, it took liberals to accept Norman Vincent Peale, but as the case of Robert Schuller indicates, today professed conservatives eat it up.”

Many historians look back to the Reformation and wonder at its far-reaching influences in transforming culture. The work ethic, public

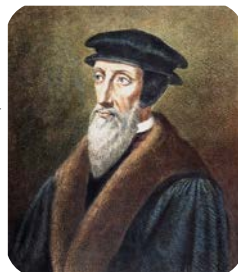
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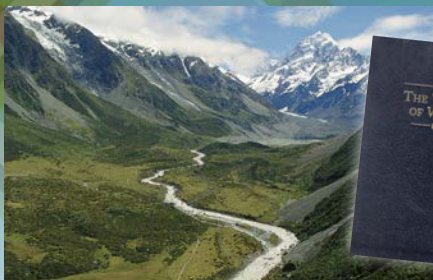
The final sola of the Reformation is the one that sums up the point of all the others. The truth that the Reformers were most concerned to promote and what can be seen as the central theme of Scripture is *soli Deo gloria*—to God alone be the glory.

The first question and answer of the Westminster Shorter Catechism tells us that “man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him for ever.” God’s glory is the highest good and therefore is the purpose for which we were created. We were made to glorify Him, to reflect His glory and proclaim it to all creation (Isa. 43:6–7). In saving His people and defeating their enemies, His glory is displayed (Ex. 14). Salvation must be *sola fide*, *sola gratia*, and *solus Christus*—through faith alone, by grace alone, and on account of Christ alone—because to attribute redemption to our efforts in any way is to rob God of His full glory. If God and God alone is not the one who saves, then He shares His glory with creatures. But as the prophet Isaiah tells us, God will share His glory with no one (42:8). *Sola Scriptura*—Scripture alone is the final, infallible authority—must be the church’s confession. If any other source is placed on par with or above the Bible, then the Word of God is no better than the fallible words of creatures, and therefore the one who superintended the writing of the Bible is mocked.

We often think of the Reformation as involving only a doctrinal dispute, but for John Calvin and others, the purity of worship was a major concern as well. Calvin and others took seriously the teaching in Romans 1:18–32 that the basic sin of humanity is its refusal to honor God as God and thank Him for all that He has given us. Instead of bowing the knee to the Almighty, we suppress knowledge of Him and make all sorts of lesser gods.



Some idolatry is crass, such as the worship of trees or nature. Other forms of idolatry are more refined, such as the exaltation of human reason above divine revelation. But any time we substitute something else for the God of the Bible, we attempt to have Him share His glory with another. Any time we deny one of His attributes, we conceive of Him as less than the sovereign Lord of all. ♦



A Collection of Puritan Prayers & Devotions

The prayers in this book are drawn from the largely forgotten deposit of Puritan spiritual exercises, meditations, and aspirations. They testify to the richness and colour of evangelical thought and language that animated vital piety in an important stream of English religious life. ~Arthur Bennett

O GOD,

Though I am allowed to approach thee

I am not unmindful of my sins,

I do not deny my guilt,

I confess my wickedness, and earnestly
plead forgiveness.

May I with Moses choose affliction rather than
enjoy the pleasures of sin.

Help me to place myself always under thy guiding
and guardian care,

to take former hold of the sure covenant that
binds me to thee,

to feel more of the purifying, dignifying,

softening influence of the religion I profess,

to have more compassion, love, pity, courtesy,

to deem it an honour to be employed by thee
as an instrument in thy hands,

ready to seize every opportunity of usefulness,

and willing to offer all my talents to thy service.

THE VALLEY OF VISION



at the corner of

River & Rhett

FALL PICNIC, OCTOBER 24 JACOB GAMBLE HOME





November Birthdays

- 1** **Ron Babington, Larry Pitts, Daisy Wagner**
- 2** **Joyce Caulder, Kathy Karr, Zach Thompson**
- 4** **Knox Duncan, Walker Haynes,
Andrew Johnson**
- 5** **Bryan Backus**
- 6** **Valerie Cancino, John Oldham,
Matthew Walton**
- 7** **Ruth Enggasser, Rob Trautner**

This Week

MORNING SERMON

Dr. Richard D. Phillips
THE FLYING SCROLL
Zechariah 5:1–11

EVENING SERMON

Dr. Richard D. Phillips
A CERTAIN JESUS
Acts 25:1–22

Sunday, November 1

- 8:30 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP
- 9:55 A.M. Children's Chapel (*Sanctuary*)
- 10:00 A.M. Children/Youth/Adult Sunday School
- 11:00 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP
- 5:00 P.M. Finance Committee (*Conference Room*)
- 5:30 P.M. Season of Prayer (*Chapel*)
- 6:00 P.M. EVENING WORSHIP

Monday, November 2

- 6:30 A.M. Men's Bible Study (*Conference Room*)
- 9:30 A.M. Rafiki Bible Study (*Conference Room*)
- 6:00 P.M. Diaconate Meeting (*Conference Room*)

Wednesday, November 4

- 5:00 P.M. Pastoral Care Committee (*Office Work Room*)
- 5:15 P.M. WIC Council (*Conference Room*)
- 5:30 P.M. FAMILY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP SUPPER (*Gym*)
- 6:15 P.M. Hope Choir (K4–K5); Covenant Choir (Grades 1–6); Youth Choir (Grades 7–12)
- 6:30 P.M. Deacon Training (*Room C-211*)
- 6:45 P.M. Ministry Moment (*Gym*)
- 7:00 P.M. CAT Kids (Ages 3–Grade 4); Covenant Kids (Grades 5–8)
- 7:00 P.M. Jr. & Sr. High Bible Studies
- 7:00 P.M. Adult Prayer Meeting & Bible Study (*Gym*)
- 7:30 P.M. Chancel Choir

Thursday, November 5

- 9:30 A.M. Precepts Bible Study (*Conference Room*)

Friday, November 6

- 9:15 A.M. Raising Up Mothers (*Fellowship Hall*)
- 12:00 P.M. Men's Luncheon/Bible Study (*Gym*)
- 1:30 P.M. Mission to Main (*Conference Room*)
- 6:30 P.M. WIC International Dinner (*Fellowship Hall*)

Saturday, November 7

- 7:00 P.M. English Country Dancing (*Gym*)

Upcoming Events

spcgreenville.org/calendar

October 31	Turn Clocks Back One Hour Saturday Night!
November 2	Diaconate Meeting
November 9	Session Meeting
November 15	New Member Introduction & Luncheon
November 22	Communion in the Morning Services
November 25	Thanksgiving Service

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education, civic and economic betterment, a revival of music, the arts, and a sense of all life being related somehow to God and his glory: These effects cause historians to observe with a sense of irony how a theology of sin and grace, the sovereignty of God over the helplessness of human beings, and an emphasis on salvation by grace apart from works, could be the catalyst for such energetic moral transformation. The reformers did not set out to launch a political or moral campaign, but they proved that when we put the Gospel first and give voice to the Word, the effects inevitably follow.



How can we expect the world to take God and his glory seriously if the church does not? The Reformation slogan *Soli Deo Gloria* was carved into the organ at Bach's church in Leipzig and the composer signed his works with its initials. It's inscribed over taverns and music halls in old sections of Heidelberg and Amsterdam, a lasting tribute to a time when the fragrance of

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Announcements

Operation Christmas Child

Shoeboxes are available on the counter outside the Church Library. Fill a box for a needy child! Gift suggestions are listed on page 10 of this newsletter. Shoeboxes should be turned in at the same location by November 18.

New Member Sunday

The Fall 2026 New Members will be introduced to the congregation at the 11:00 A.M. Worship Service on Sunday, November 15.



The church family and visitors are cordially invited to a luncheon in our New Members' honor.

DATE: Sunday, November 15

TIME: Following the 11:00 A.M. Worship Service

PLACE: Gymnasium

FOOD: Meat/drinks will be provided. Please bring generous portions of sides and desserts.

Friday Night Alive

The next fellowship/teaching time will be on November 13, beginning with supper at 6:00 P.M. at the Phillips' Home. Pray for God's blessing on this important time for our young adults.

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God's goodness seemed to fill the air. It was not a golden age, but it was an amazing recovery of God-centered faith and practice. Columbia University professor Eugene Rice offers a fitting conclusion:

All the more, the Reformation's views of God and humanity measure the gulf between the secular imagination of the twentieth century and the sixteenth century's intoxication with the majesty of God. We can exercise

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only historical sympathy to try to understand how it was that the most brilliant intelligences of an entire epoch found a total, a supreme liberty in abandoning human weakness to the omnipotence of God.

Soli Deo Gloria! ♦

Dr. Michael Horton is professor of apologetics and theology at Westminster Seminary California (Escondido, California).



Please do NOT include:

soap, food/candy/gum,
toothpaste, used items, scary
or war-related items, seeds
or organic matter, liquids,
medication, money, breakable
items, matches/lighters,
knives/saws/razor blades

Shoebox Gift Suggestions

"Wow" Item: small backpack or purse,
doll, soccer ball and pump, stuffed animal,
large toy, hobby kit

Personal Care Items: toothbrush,
washcloth, comb/brush, nail clipper/file,
water bottle, flashlight

School Supplies: pencils/sharpener/
erasers, pens, crayons, colored pencils,
markers, notebooks, index cards,
calculator, scissors, ruler, glue stick,
drawstring bag

Clothing & Accessories: flip-flops,
sunglasses, hat, wristwatch, T-shirt, winter
cap/scarf/mittens

Games & Activities: puzzles, coloring
books, dry watercolor set, binoculars/
compass, musical instruments, chalkboard/
chalk, jump rope, stickers, games

Toys: small ball, LEGO sets, Slinky, yo-yo,
plastic animals, magnets, finger puppets,
toy cars



SPEAKER: Sharon Phillips

TOPIC: Encouragement!

BRING: Share a dish representing your family heritage, or just a favorite recipe. *(Please include allergen information.)*

In addition to your favorite dish, please consider bringing one or more of these new, unopened items for our ministry partners:

PIEDMONT WOMEN'S CENTER	MIRACLE HILL SHEPHERD'S GATE
Baby towels & washcloths	Shampoo
Newborn onesies	Conditioner
Bibs & burp cloths	Deodorant
Crib sheets	Body lotion

Full-sized,
please

**CHANGE CLOCKS
OCTOBER 31!**

