

Five Solae of the Protestant Reformation [compiled by Chris Halvorson]

sola fide ("by faith alone"): faith, not works (in salvation)--Eph:2.8-9

sola gratia ("by grace alone"): grace, not merit (in salvation)--ibid.*

* KJV: "{8} For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: {9} Not of works, lest any man should boast." [Compare this passage to TUB 143:2.6, 144:4.3, and 150:5.2-3 (and re "faith alone", see TUB 94:7.6, 95:1.8, 140:1.4, and 141:7.6).]

sola scriptura ("by Scripture alone"): Scripture over church tradition (in all matters of doctrine and theology)--because Scripture alone (i.e., not the Pope speaking ex cathedra) is deemed to be infallible.

[Note: In all three above, "sola" (fem.) is ablative, not nominative.]

solus Christus or solo Christo ("Christ alone" or "through Christ alone"): Christ alone (i.e., not a priest) is the mediator between God and man; and, there is salvation through none other than Jesus Christ [thus the phrase sometimes being rendered in the (mas.) ablative case, namely, "solo Christo", rather than the nominative "solus Christus"].

soli Deo gloria ("glory to God alone"): Veneration is not due to Mary (the mother of Jesus), nor angels (celestial beings), nor the saints, nor the Popes and the ecclesiastical hierarchy (i.e., humans for their "good works"); because, salvation is accomplished solely through God's will and action as the Trinity, namely, the gift of the all-sufficient atonement of Jesus on the cross, and also the gift of faith in that atonement, created in the heart of the believer by the Holy Spirit.**

** In Arminianism, the latter gift is "prevenient grace"--created in the hearts of "everyone" by the Holy Spirit--which enables man to understand the gospel of salvation through Christ, and then "respond" in faith. Therefore, salvation is not accomplished "solely" through God's will; and hence, Reformed theology deems Arminianism to be semi-Pelagianism. [But actually: "The transformations of grace are wrought in response to the living faith of those who are the beneficiaries." (TUB 150:9.2)]

[Note: The word "alone" is now "soli", because of the dative case.]