



First Christian Reformed Church of Lynden
From Generation to Generation for the Glory of God

God's precious and exceedingly great promises in hard times

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom,
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

October 31 is Reformation Day, the day Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany. This occasion gives us an opportunity to remember some of the great truths of Scripture that had been lost and were recaptured by the many great reformers God raised up. Today we conclude our focus on the five solas or five onlys that summarize the Reformation. Scripture alone (sola Scriptura) · Christ alone (solus Christus) · Grace alone (sola gratia) · Faith alone (sola fide) · God's glory alone (soli Deo gloria).

Scripture

Reflections on "God's glory alone" in Scripture.

Psalm 8:1 O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.

Psalm 19:1-2 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.

Psalm 34:3 Oh, glorify [magnify] the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together!

Psalm 57:5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!

Psalm 72:18-19 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.
Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory!

Psalm 96:1-9 Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!
Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.
For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens.
Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!
Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

Isaiah 6:1-8 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for." And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

Habakkuk 2:14 For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Romans 11:33-36 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

“For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?”

“Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?”

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

I Corinthians 10:31 Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

II Corinthians 4:6 For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Jude 24-25 Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, **25** to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Song

***Psalm 59:16** But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.*

[You can Google the hymn to hear it if you would like to sing along.]

To God Be The Glory

To God be the glory, great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin
And opened the Life gate that we may go in.

Refrain: Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear his voice.
Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice.

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory, great things he has done.
Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer and higher and greater will be
Our wonder, our gladness, when Jesus we see. *Refrain*

(“To God Be The Glory” Words by Fanny Crosby (1875), Public Domain CCLI# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Prayer

***II Chronicles 7:14** If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

Prayer: Holy, gracious and all-glorious God, we worship and praise you. The unveiled revelation of yourself in creation, redemption and Scripture cause our hearts to soar. Indeed, your doctrines and decrees are delightful, your truths are trustworthy, your statutes are cause for security, your commandments give us confidence, your sovereign providence instills peace. All that is in your Word is reason to worship you and adore you. Because your steadfast love is better than life, our lips will praise you and as long as we live we bless and praise your glorious name.

Holy Father, you are God most high, higher than which there is no other. You are exalted above the heavens and your glory is over all the earth. You alone dwell in unapproachable light, your glory outshines ten thousand suns. How awesome are your deeds. You are the mighty one who is strong to save. Salvation belongs to our God. In your righteousness you deliver and rescue the perishing, you judge and bring down your enemies, you humble the exalted and exalt the humble. You are the one and only true God before whom all will bow and worship you and glorify your name.

It is our confidence in your sovereign providence that enables us to approach the throne of your grace and bring our requests. You delight in your children and you delight when we come acknowledging our dependence and need because you delight to show yourself strong and wise and faithful. You love to provide what we need, you get the glory and we get the blessing.

Father, we know from experience that uncertainty about life and the future can lead us to great fear and misery and anxiety. The trials and troubles that beset our lives are innumerable. But by your Word and your Spirit you have given to us certainty about your good providence and your purposeful control of all things. Our future is securely in your hands. Our faith in you that leads us to certainty leads us to joy, peace and trust. We can rest our anxious souls in your perfect, Fatherly providence and in your sovereign goodness.

We desire to give you all the honor and glory that is due your name for no one has done great a thing as you and no one deserves the place of honor at the Father's right hand more than you. May you be glorified in and through us now and forever. Holy Father, be glorified here in our lives and in our church and in our nation, for your glory is our eternal security and everlasting hope and joy. We dare to ask as Moses asked, show us your glory. All this we ask in the holy name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Soli Deo Gloria! To God alone be all the Glory!