

## 12-3-17 Soli Deo Gloria – Glory to God Alone – John 1:14-18

Glory is defined as “high renown” or “honor won by notable achievements!”

When we reflect on what God has done for us in Christ, can there be anything/anyone more fitting of the definition of glory than God Himself?

**Scripture Alone** – Declares the glorious gospel of God’s redemptive purpose!

**Grace Alone** – God unmerited favor makes salvation for sinners possible!

**Christ Alone** – God Himself, took on flesh, endured the cross, conquered death & and has attained for us an eternal inheritance!

**Faith Alone** – Faith is the means by which the righteousness of Christ is credited to our account, & those who are dead in sin are raised!

“Soli Deo Gloria” is the summation of all the “Solas”, & is the proper response to them – “To God be the Glory!” God alone deserves all the praise!

Song: “Glory to God in the highest. Peace on earth, goodwill towards men. Let all of the world sing the chorus of joy b/c hope was born this night!”

This all seems pretty basic - God gets the glory. But do we ever deprive God from the glory that is His alone by giving it to something or someone else?

Do our actions reveal that God’s glory is under attack in our lives today?

**Romans 1:28, 25** – *“And since they did not see it fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a depraved mind to do what ought not be done... for they had exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.”*

Let us just consider this “holiday” season for a moment. Do we ever worship created things over the Creator at Christmas?

And when I say “worship”, I mean “desire”, b/c worship is simply elevating someone/something to a level of great worth that fuels the desires within us!

Do we desire God above all things, or is our desire God & other things?

John Calvin said that “the human heart is an idol factory.” It continually creates objects of worship that pulls away from the One true object of worship!

Many of the things that our hearts worship, that challenge “Soli Deo Gloria”, are things that the Christmas season tends to highlight! Let me share a few:

- Traditions – Can traditions pull away the glory that is God’s alone in this season by focusing our hearts on other things other than Him?

Family gatherings, travel, work parties, elf on the shelf, shopping, etc.

- The Church – Can the church actually pull away from the glory that is God’s alone during the Christmas season?

All the Dec. events, decorations, invitation cards, yard signs, etc.

Is the focus of what we do in advent serve to draw people to Christ or to BRC?

If people are saying how great BRC is without saying how great God is first, then the glory of God is being diminished. We must declare with the apostle John:

***“He must increase, I (we) must decrease” – John 3:30***

Luther raised the red flag on the church in the 16th century when the church became more focused upon itself then upon Christ.

It became more about them then about God, more about what they can do for you then about what He has already done for you in Christ!

The Church needed saving from itself! Is it any less true today?

- Self- Do we ever elevate the status of ourselves over the glory of God?

With our Christmas lists, our desires, even in our giving, etc.

When we make much of created things, it comes at the expense of God’s glory in Christ! Read - Isaiah 42:8

When we highlight (put the spotlight) on anything other than Christ then we are stealing His glory! Let me read again John 1:14-18

Jesus Christ is infinitely glorious & the true revelation of God the Father!

***“For from Him and through Him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever! Amen!” – Romans 11:36***

Christ is everything for us, no matter the season. Let’s give Him/God the glory He deserves! He alone is worth of glory - the highest renown!

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