



GracePoint: A Weekly Sermon Discussion
10 – Soli Deo Gloria

9/10 @6:30

Grace Group at
3513 Northpointe Dr

9/12 @6:00

Grace Group at
2070 Corley Dr

9/12 @6:30

Grace Group at
1710 Mariposa Dr

ICE BREAKER: What would be your life's motto (or mission statement)?

REVIEW: Was there anything covered or said on Sunday that you had any questions or comments about?

READ: Philippians 2:1-11

One of the biggest rallying cries of the reformation over 500 years ago are what we now call the "5 Solas". Sola is the Latin word for alone, and the five of these together attempt to boil down the beauty and truth of Salvation and prevent any added fluff or troubles. They proclaim that salvation is 1) by grace *alone* 2) through faith *alone* 3) in Christ *alone* 4) according to the Scriptures *alone* 5) for God's Glory *alone*. (for those curious in latin: *sola gratia, sola fide, solus Christus, sola Scriptura, soli Deo gloria*). And today I would like to dive into that last one, because for Paul, this is the end of all things (but in particular, both ours and Christ's humility): The Glory of God!

One of the key words in this whole passage comes at the very beginning of verse 9: "therefore". As most have heard me say many times, when you read "therefore" ask what the therefore is there for. And here it means the end of an argument. You all need to complete Paul's joy by being humble and united. How can you be humble? By being like Jesus! That was the introduction. But then he dives into what makes Jesus so incredible. Jesus who was God and yet lay aside all the privileges and joys of that to become human. And he came and he served and he suffered and he died. And then it is here that we find the "THEREFORE"! In other words, because of all this, because of who Jesus is and what Jesus has done, God has done something too. What is that? It is two fold. It is the exaltation of the son for the glory of the Father (see verse 11).

Before we dive into the deep end of all of this, let's start at an important first step: we can say, the exaltation of Jesus *is* giving God glory. Because Jesus is God. When we sing phrases to our Lord and savior, we are giving God glory. When we bow before the Lamb (we along with every knee... in heaven and earth and under the earth!), we are giving God Glory. When we share and proclaim the goodness and mercy and power and Lordship of Jesus (we along with "every tongue"), we are giving Glory to God. As we join in the choir (not churro!) of heaven singing: "to him who sits on the throne *and to the Lamb* be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever" (Revelation 5:13), we are giving Glory to God. and this is good and right. We should give all glory to Jesus.

DISCUSS: What does it look like to give all glory to Jesus? In what ways do we seek to steal that glory for ourselves?

The "deep end" however is where we see the beauty and glory of God on full display. Last week I mentioned that Jesus exhibited his humility "in heaven", and this gets to the heart of that. Jesus, as part of who he fundamentally *is*, brings more and more glory to God. Because as we praise Jesus we also praise the Father who loved the world so much that he "gave his only begotten son." But it gets better, because as we praise Jesus he in turn causes us to set our gaze and give glory to God the Father because "no one has seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known." (John 1:18). But then this gets even better (and this one is hard to wrap our minds around fully-- hence "the deep end") but Part of why we give Jesus glory is he takes that glory, magnifies it and shines all the more glory on God the Father, which in turn causes us to glory in the full Trinity and in all of this God receives more and more and more glory. One way to think about it is this: Just like the miracle of Jesus feeding 5000 with only a few fish and loaves, so too God can take just our little praise and through Jesus make it greater and bigger than we can even imagine! *Soli Deo Gloria!*

DISCUSS: In what ways can we understand Jesus taking the glory we give him and giving that back to God? What encouragement is there in knowing how God will get all the more glory? In what practical ways can we give glory to him?