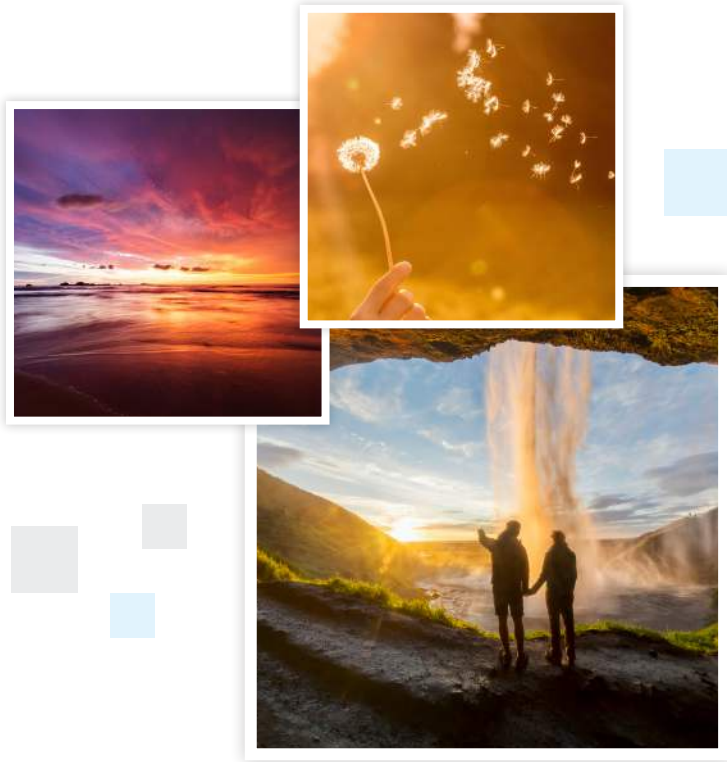


# P Protestant University



STUDY GUIDE | LESSON 5

# SOLI DEO GLORIA



There is a lot of glory given in this world. Athletes receive glory for their great accomplishments in the form of trophies and entrance into a hall of fame. Entertainers receive glory through winning Grammys, Emmys, Golden Globes, etc. Fans put posters of these athletes and entertainers on their walls and get memorabilia signed by them. There is a lot of glory given to people for their accomplishments. Is anyone truly worthy of glory? In this study guide we will consider the topic of Soli Deo Gloria (glory to God alone).

**Is it true that only God should receive glory? What about man giving glory to other men? What does the Bible say about man receiving glory from his fellow man? John 5:44**

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This verse tells us that receiving glory from men is a roadblock to belief in God. When we receive glory from our fellow man, we are receiving an earthly reward that leads us to feel fulfilled. This fulfillment gets in the way of being fulfilled only in God.

**What reason does the Bible give us that no man is superior to another? 1 Corinthians 4:7**

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The reason man shouldn't be proud or feel superior or boastful is because he doesn't have anything that he didn't receive from God. God has given us life and breath and existence (Acts 17:28). God breathed life into man at the beginning and anything we accomplish is because of the life He has given us. Sadly, man has taken that God-given life and has used it to accomplish things to bring glory to himself.

**What about our spiritual lives? Is it any different? Is there anything we possess spiritually that we haven't received from God? According to 1 Cor. 1:30-31 what has Jesus become for us? Who should we boast in?**

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These verses indicate that Jesus became for us "wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption." We boast (glory) in the Lord because He is the one who was able to give us these supernatural spiritual blessings. If God provided some of our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption and we provided some it ourselves, then we could and probably should share the glory with God. This verse clearly states, though, that we get these blessings through Jesus Christ alone and our boasting is in God.

**Was the righteousness, sanctification, or redemption simply a jump-start by Jesus to get us most of the way to what we need for eternal life or was it totally complete in Jesus? What does the Bible say in Philippians 1:6 about who starts the work and who finishes the work?**

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**God starts it and God completes it! Simple as that. We can see this same idea in 1 Cor. 6:11. What has Jesus and the Holy Spirit done for us?**

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**The point was made in the video that what God did for us is mentioned as past tense, so it's already been done. If we have already been washed and already been sanctified and already been justified, then what is left for us to do? What does Acts 16:31 tell us is our part?**

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Our part is to believe in what God says He has done for us through Jesus Christ. This is quite humbling since we are to believe in the saving work of Jesus and not in anything we have done. There is no glory in it for us. The glory is all for God.

**Sanctification is a process we are still going through so how can it be that Jesus has already taken care of that for us? Isn't there something for us to do other than simply believe? What does Hebrews 10:9-10 teach us?**

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How much more complete could our sanctification be? We have been sanctified through the offering of Jesus once and for all!

**Isn't it the work of a lifetime though? What does Hebrews 10:14 indicate?**

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Through the one time offering of Jesus, we are perfect even while being sanctified. Sanctification is a word for the process of growing more and more godly, living more and more holy. While we are in this spiritual growth process, Jesus has made us perfect. In other words, we are perfect through Christ while He sanctifies us.

**God wants us to become more and more like Him, yet how much can we change ourselves by our own efforts? What does God tell us in Jeremiah 13:23?**

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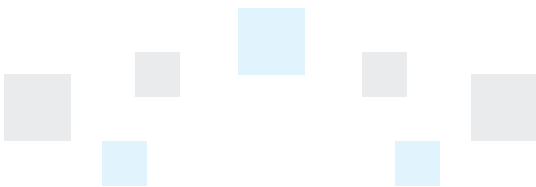
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**Where does a clean heart come from according to Psalm 51:10?**

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We aren't stuck with our unsanctified hearts. God can create in us a new heart. It is God's work and we can say yes or no to what He wants to do in us. There isn't much glory in what we do but there sure is a lot of glory in what God does. It's like a baseball player hitting the game winning home run and a fan of his team picks up the home run ball and takes credit for winning the game. Jesus has won the game for us and we get to pick up the salvation, redemption, and sanctification that He won through the life and death of Jesus. There is no glory for us in receiving what God did for us at an enormous cost to Himself. The glory belongs to Him alone.

**Is there anything we can do to bring glory to God other than believe and receive what Jesus has done for us?  
What does Matthew 5:16 tell us?**

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God intends that our good works are to bring glory to Him. He intends to "work in us to will and to do His good pleasure" in such a way that people are convinced that the good works they see in us must be coming from God. You see, our good works are from God and He alone deserves the glory.

"Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: 'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!'"

Revelation 5:11, 12