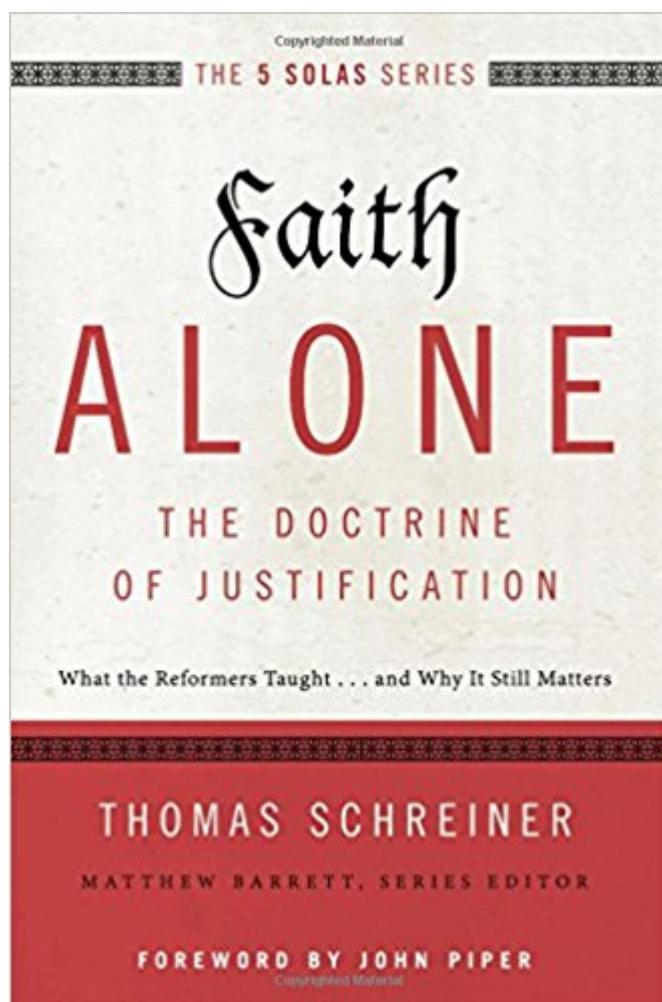


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# Faith Alone---The Doctrine Of Justification: What The Reformers Taught...and Why It Still Matters (The Five Solas Series)



## Synopsis

Historians and theologians have long recognized that at the heart of the sixteenth-century Protestant Reformation were five declarations, often referred to as the “Five Solas”:

sola scriptura, solus Christus, sola gratia, sola fide, and soli Deo gloria. These five statements summarize much of what the Reformation was about, and they distinguish Protestantism from other expressions of the Christian faith. Protestants place ultimate and final authority in the Scriptures, acknowledge the work of Christ alone as sufficient for redemption, recognize that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone, and seek to do all things for God’s glory. In *Faith Alone* • The Doctrine of Justification renowned biblical scholar Thomas Schreiner looks at the historical and biblical roots of the doctrine of justification. He summarizes the history of the doctrine, looking at the early church and the writings of several of the Reformers. Then, he turns his attention to the Scriptures and walks readers through an examination of the key texts in the Old and New Testament. He discusses whether justification is transformative or forensic and introduces readers to some of the contemporary challenges to the Reformation teaching of sola fide, with particular attention to the new perspective on Paul. Five hundred years after the Reformation, the doctrine of justification by faith alone still needs to be understood and proclaimed. In *Faith Alone* you will learn how the rallying cry of “sola fide” is rooted in the Scriptures and how to apply this sola in a fresh way in light of many contemporary challenges.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Schreiner's clear explanation of justification by faith alone will do much to strengthen the faith of a new generation and its witness to this timeless truth. (Gerald Bray, research professor of divinity, Beeson Divinity School) Thomas Schreiner, one of the most clearheaded and biblically faithful New Testament scholars of our generation, has produced a compelling and careful defense of the doctrine of justification that readers will find both exegetically faithful and theologically enriching. This book will help the church in this generation to stand on solid ground. (R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of SBTS) Schreiner anchors his exposition of the key biblical themes in the history of the doctrine, and defends the Reformation view in light of the many current challenges. Comprehensive, readable, persuasive. (Douglas J. Moo, Wheaton College) I welcome this new series and its substantial engagement with the great themes of Reformation theology. (Timothy George, Beeson Divinity School)

Dr. Schriener has done a magnificent job of expounding the key doctrine of the Protestant Reformation, which remains as vital for us today as when Martin Luther first proclaimed it. His clear explanation of justification by faith alone will do much to strengthen the faith of a new generation and its witness to this timeless truth. -- Gerald Bray, Research Professor of Divinity, Beeson Divinity School The doctrine by which the church stands or falls--that's how Luther described the importance of justification by faith alone. Without the imputed righteousness of Christ received by faith alone, we are truly without hope before a holy God. Thomas Schreiner, one of the most clear-headed and biblically faithful New Testament scholars of our generation, has produced a compelling and careful defense of the doctrine of justification that readers will find both exegetically faithful and theologically enriching. This book will help the church in this generation to stand on solid ground. -- R. Albert Mohler Jr, President of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary As new ideas about justification have proliferated in recent years, the need for clear analysis of these ideas and better understanding of the traditional Reformation view has grown. Tom Schreiner's Faith Alone accomplishes both tasks admirably. Schreiner anchors his exposition of the key biblical themes in the history of the doctrine, and defends the Reformation view in light of the many current challenges. Comprehensive, readable, persuasive. -- Douglas J. Moo, Wessner Chair of Biblical Studies, Wheaton College; Chair, Committee on Bible Translation The Protestant Reformation was driven by a renewed appreciation of the singular fullness of the triune God and his unique sovereignty in all of human life. But that profound reality expressed itself with regard to many questions and in a number of forms, ranging from facets of the liturgy to soteriological tenets and back again. I'm delighted to see this new series expositing the five most influential

expressions of that God-centeredness, the pivotal Solas of the Protestant Reformation. By expounding the biblical reasoning behind them, I hope these volumes will invigorate a more profoundly theological vision of our lives and callings as Christians and churches. -- Michael Allen, Associate Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology, Reformed Theological Seminary

The Reformation's 500th Anniversary will be celebrated as a significant historical event. However, The Five Solas series explores the contemporary relevance of this legacy for the global church. Superb evangelical scholars have been enlisted not only to summarize the "Solas," but to engage each from historical, exegetical, and constructive perspectives. These volumes demonstrate that, far from being exhausted slogans, the Reformation's key themes need to be rediscovered for the church's very existence and mission in the world. -- Michael Horton, J. Gresham Machen Professor of Systematic Theology and Apologetics, Westminster Seminary California

welcome this new series and its substantial engagement with the great themes of Reformation theology. -- Timothy George, founding dean of Beeson Divinity School; general editor of the Reformation Commentary on Scripture

A timely project, and not simply because the 500th anniversary of the Reformation will soon be upon us. Much of "who we are" is determined by "where we have come from"; at a time when even so significant a part of our past as the Reformation is, for many, little more than a name, informed, accessible treatments of its basic principles are welcome indeed. -- Stephen Westerholm, Professor of Early Christianity, McMaster University

In commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, Zondervan is publishing the 5 Solas Series. Each book in the series will examine one of the great solas of the Reformation. The first book, *Faith Alone: The Doctrine of Justification* (September, 2015), examines one of the dividing truths of Christianity: that one can only be justified before God by faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. The Reformers attempted to return the corrupted, institutionalized church to the Gospel message of the New Testament of simple, saving faith in Jesus Christ. Schreiner examines the doctrine of faith alone, one of the rallying cries of the Reformation, in the context of Scripture and church history. Opponents of "sola fide" call it "cheap grace" and the road to antinomianism (free license to sin). They insist good works and merit are a necessary part of justification. Certainly, good works and charity are the fruit of salvation in Christ but they could never be the basis for it because of their imperfection. But one who has genuinely accepted Christ will want to follow Him in obedience. A genuine conversion will lead to a transformed life. Those who claim to have accepted Christ but have no fruit never genuinely

accepted Him. On the other hand, those who claim to be followers of Christ but insist they must obey the Ten Commandments (an impossible task!) to merit their salvation do not know Jesus or understand the Gospel of grace. "Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin." Schreiner covers the doctrine of justification by faith alone and the biblical relationship between faith and works in great detail but for a theology book this is actually quite readable and enjoyable. In our current day, when right doctrine is increasingly dismissed in favor of "just loving Jesus," it is important to uphold the genuine Gospel of salvation by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Every believer would benefit from this book as well as those who seek Him and wish to understand the Gospel of salvation by grace through faith.

Nice to have a new review of the doctrine. It is part of a series on the five "alones" of Reformed theology. However, he did not include a list of the other topics to frame the whole series. Also, he did not say anything about the theologians of the 20th century such as Barth, who had a lot to say about faith. It was basically a review of the Lutheran formulations.

This book is a terrific overview of one of the most crucial doctrines of the Christian faith. Its historical, biblical and pastoral insight is unmatched. Take up and read!

He is so easy to follow- even complicated theological truths such as Sola Fide. "...Saved are we by Faith alone but not a Faith that is alone." :)

This is an excellent resource on an essential Christian reality, written by a respected and distinguished author.

Faith Alone by Thomas Schreiner is much-needed treatment of the doctrine which was rediscovered during the days of the Protestant Reformation, namely, justification by faith alone. The author makes it plain from the beginning that he does not intend to offer a comprehensive treatment of this doctrine. Rather, he guides readers through a tour of the doctrine of justification. The contours of this fascinating tour are informed by history, theology, and biblical/exegetical arguments. Dr. Schreiner is unique among theologians as he fairly represents opposing positions and graciously

refutes them. His stance toward Rome, in particular, is refreshing and sure to pose a challenge to Roman Catholic thought. Despite the gracious intent of the author, his arguments are robust and biblical. His allegiance to the Sola Scriptura principle is evident throughout and his love for the doctrine of justification by faith alone is clear. I commend this work highly and expect it shall receive a wide reading. [www.baldreformer.wordpress.com](http://www.baldreformer.wordpress.com)

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