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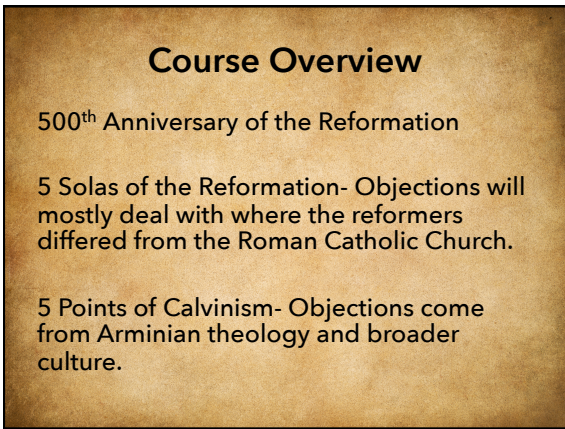
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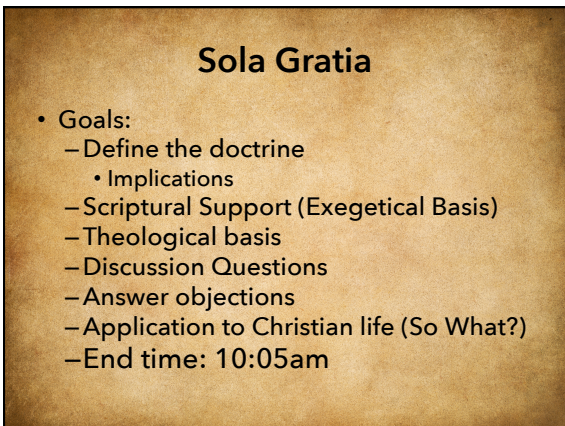
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**Sola Gratia Defined**

Definition:  
Our salvation is not earned in any part; it is the free gift of God's grace from start to finish.

1. The basis for salvation is that it is a free gift.
2. The source of salvation is God and God alone.
3. The scope of salvation is gracious from start to finish

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**Defining "grace" in the gospel:**

Not merely unmerited favor, but demerited favor (i.e. in spite of our sin)

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**Implications**

1. God does not owe salvation to anyone-nor does he owe anyone anything else!
  1. God's decision to save anyone at all is absolutely free and gracious.
  2. God would not be unjust if he were to save no one.
  3. God is not unjust because he allows that some people never hear the gospel.

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### Implications

- 2. Salvation cannot be earned or merited by anyone-not even in part
- 3. Salvation is not in any respect a human work or a natural work.
  - 1. Salvation does not involve humans co-operating with God.
  - 2. Salvation is a supernatural work from start to finish.

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### Implications

- 4. We should put no trust in our own works or efforts to secure our salvation.
- 5. There is no need for anyone to supplement the work of Christ for their salvation.
- 6. All moral efforts of fallen human beings are polluted by sin and unacceptable to God.
- 7. There are not good people going to heaven-only bad people!
- 8. All benefits in this life come from divine grace ('common' grace or 'special' grace).

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### Scriptural Support

Psalm 51-  
 No hint of personal moral self transformation or personal absolution for sin. David casts himself on God's mercy. External religious works cannot be the solution

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Luke 15:11-32- Prodigal Son

Purely the grace of the father to receive back his son, demerited favor. Not also the grace to the older son.

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Romans 3:9-12, 20-24

No one is righteous, all have sinned and fall short and are justified by his grace as a gift.

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Romans 4:4-5

[4] Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. [5] And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,

If by works, salvation would be our due.

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Romans 6:23

[23] For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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Galatians 2:21

[21] I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

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Summary Argument/Theological basis

1. We are fallen in sin and all our moral efforts are tainted by sin
2. **Therefore, we cannot earn God's favor and eternal life by our moral efforts.**
3. **Therefore, we can obtain God's favor and eternal life only by divine grace.**

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### Discussion Questions

1. Is Sola Gratia necessary to the gospel? (Explain)
2. If the Bible is so clear that salvation is by graces alone, how could this doctrine ever have been obscured or compromised?
3. If grace is the antithesis of human effort, how could Peter exhort his readers to "grow in grace...of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18)

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### Objections

1. If good works don't count for anything, it doesn't matter how we live.
2. It's morally repugnant to suggest that a good man like Mahatma Gandhi didn't go to heaven because he wasn't a Christian, but a serial killer on death row could go to heaven just by trusting in Jesus.

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### Objections

3. Roman Catholics also believe that salvation is entirely gracious.
4. Philippians 2:12 says that we should work out our salvation.

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### Application

1. Sola Gratia gives glory to God as the sole author of our salvation.
2. Sola Gratia frees us from the crushing burden of futile efforts to earn God's favor.
3. Sola Gratia cultivates an attitude of gratitude-continual, unqualified thankfulness to God.
4. Sola Gratia cultivates an attitude of humility-both toward God and toward others.

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### Application

5. Sola Gratia cultivates an attitude of grace and mercy toward others (Matthew 18:21-35)
6. Sola Gratia points us to the "means of grace" as we strive for holiness.
7. Sola Gratia guards us against both legalism and license (Romans 10:3-4; 6:14-15).

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