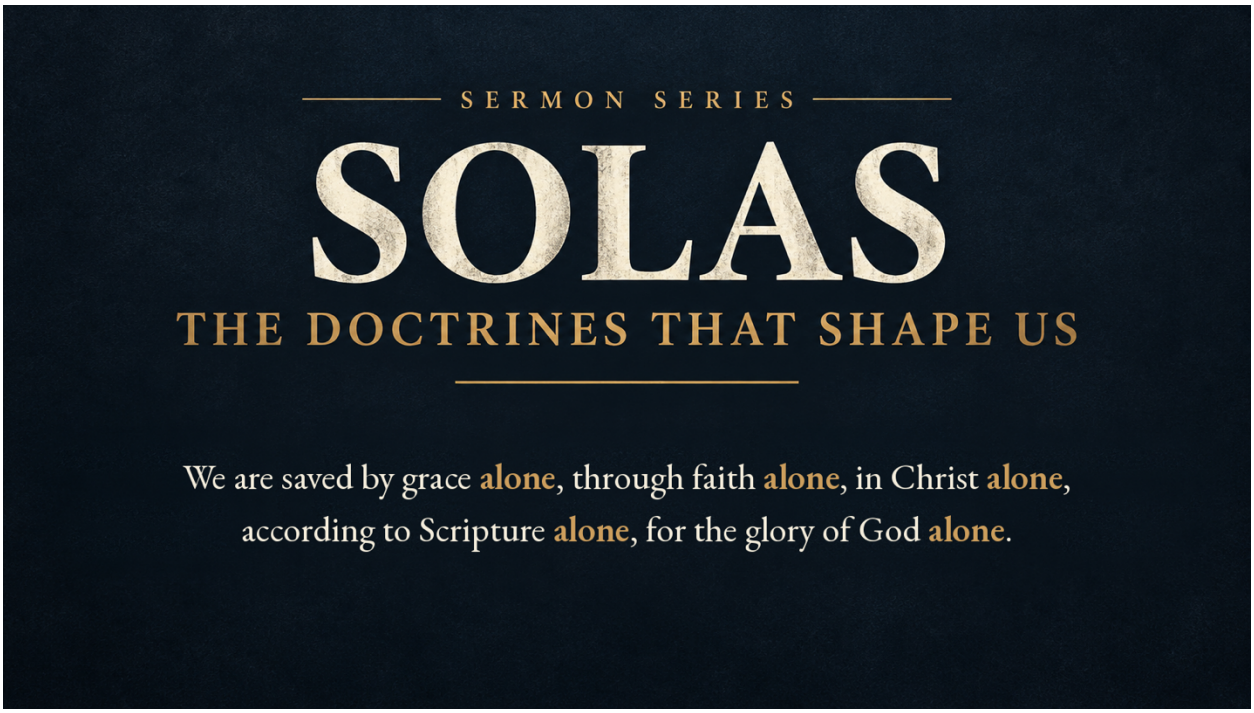
Faith Alone: A Deeper Dive
Reading Plan
Monday, November 16 through Friday, November 20



WEEK 3 – Empty of All, Ready to Receive

Faith Alone

Sola Fide: Salvation Through Faith Alone

The Question It Answers: How do I receive it?

THE BIG IDEA

Faith is knowing that we bring nothing. We come only as those who need God's saving work.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK – Choose 1

> **9** because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
>
> Romans 10:9 (ESV)

> 13 For "everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved."
>
> Romans 10:13 (ESV)

THE WHOLE SERIES IN ONE SENTENCE

Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, according to Scripture alone, for the glory of God alone.

These are not five separate doctrines. They are the gospel seen from five angles, and each one answers a different question.

FOR YOU, YOUR FAMILY, OR YOUR SMALL GROUP

What do people today put on their "résumé" to feel right with God? What is on yours?

The **SOAP METHOD** of Bible Study

SOAP is a popular and structured way to study the Bible that helps readers engage with Scripture on a deeper level. It stands for **Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer**.
Here is a short description of each step along with questions to guide your reading:

Scripture

- **Description:** What caught your attention in reading the passage? Physically writing it down helps you focus on the exact wording.
- **Questions:**
    - Which verse or phrase caught my attention?
    - What words or themes are present?

Observation

- **Description:** Analyze the context and meaning of the text. Look up the passage and read the surrounding text. Look at what is happening, who is speaking, and what the original message was.
- **Questions:**
    - Who wrote this, who is it written to, and what is the main setting?
    - What is the central truth, lesson, or command in this passage?
    - What does this tell me about God's character?

Application

- **Description:** Connect the scripture to your personal life. Consider how the truth you observed changes how you live, think, or act today.
- **Questions:**
    - How does this passage apply to my current life circumstances?
    - What changes do I need to make in my attitude, habits, or relationships based on this?
    - Is there a sin to confess, a promise to claim, or a command to obey?

Prayer

- **Description:** Turn your reflections into a conversation with God. Ask Him for the strength to apply what you have learned and thank Him for His word.
- **Questions:**
    - What do I want to thank God for after reading this?
    - How can I ask God to help me live out this truth today?
    - Who else can I pray for based on the themes of this passage?

DAY 1 · MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Counting It All Loss

READ

Philippians 3:4–14. **Also read:** Luke 18:9–14; Isaiah 64:6

QUESTIONS TO GET YOU STARTED

- In verses 4–6 Paul lists his "reason for confidence in the flesh." What would be on your list?
- Paul wants to be found in Christ, "not having a righteousness of my own" (v. 9). Where are you still trying to build one?
- Paul presses on "because Christ Jesus has made me his own" (v. 12). How does being held by Christ change the way you run the race of faith?

The **SOAP METHOD** of Bible Study (see page 2 for more info).

S **Scripture**

O **Observation**

A **Application**

P **Prayer**

DAY 2 · TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Righteousness From God

READ

Romans 3:21–26. **Also read:** Romans 3:9–20; Romans 3:27–31

QUESTIONS TO GET YOU STARTED

- Romans 3:10–18 is a hard list. Which line describes you most honestly?
- "All have sinned… and are justified by his grace as a gift" (vv. 23–24). Which half of that sentence is harder for you to believe?
- God is "just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus" (v. 26). How does the cross show both God's justice and his mercy?

PRAY THE LORD'S PRAYER

"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." Thank God that in Christ your debt is not reduced but paid in full.

The **SOAP METHOD** of Bible Study (see page 2 for more info).

S Scripture

O Observation

A Application

P Prayer

DAY 3 · WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Abraham Believed God

READ

Romans 4:1–8. **Also read:** Genesis 12:1–4; Genesis 15:1–6

REFLECT

Paul quotes Genesis 15:6: "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness" (Romans 4:3). Abraham was declared righteous before he was circumcised and decades before he climbed Mount Moriah with Isaac. Tomorrow James points to Genesis 22, where Abraham's obedience proved the faith he already had. Paul shows us the root: faith alone receives God's righteousness. James shows us the fruit: real faith never stays alone.

QUESTIONS TO GET YOU STARTED

- In verses 4–5, what is the difference between a wage and a gift? Which way do you tend to relate to God?
- God "justifies the ungodly" (v. 5). Why is that such good news, and why does it offend us?
- Abraham believed a promise he could not yet see (Genesis 15:5–6). What promise of God are you being asked to trust this week?

The **SOAP METHOD** of Bible Study (see page 2 for more info).

S Scripture

O Observation

A Application

P Prayer

DAY 4 · THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Faith That Works

READ

James 2:14–26. **Also read:** Genesis 22:1–18; Hebrews 11:17–19

QUESTIONS TO GET YOU STARTED

- Paul asks how a sinner is made right with God. James asks how you can tell faith is real. How does that help Paul and James fit together?
- Abraham's faith from Genesis 15 was "completed by his works" in Genesis 22 (v. 22). What would show that your faith is real this week?
- Is there a place where your faith has become words without obedience? What step is God asking you to take?

PRAY THE LORD'S PRAYER

"Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Ask God to make your faith visible in obedience at home, at work, and in town.

The **SOAP METHOD** of Bible Study (see page 2 for more info).

S Scripture

O Observation

A Application

P Prayer

DAY 5 · FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Faith Comes From Hearing

READ

Romans 10:1–17. **Also read:** Hebrews 11:1–6; Ephesians 2:8–10

QUESTIONS TO GET YOU STARTED

- Paul's heart's desire is that his people be saved (v. 1). Who is that person for you? Pray for them by name.
- Believe in your heart, confess with your mouth (vv. 9–10). When did you last tell someone that Jesus is Lord?
- "Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ" (v. 17). How could you be the "beautiful feet" (v. 15) for someone this week?

PRAY THE LORD'S PRAYER

"Your kingdom come." Pray that our neighbors in Big Timber and beyond would hear the word of Christ and believe.

The **SOAP METHOD** of Bible Study (see page 2 for more info).

S Scripture

O Observation

A Application

P Prayer

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, November 22: Christ Alone

Jesus Doesn't Just Show Us a Better Way. He Is the Only Way.

The Question It Answers: Who accomplished it?

Read Hebrews 7:23–8:1 before Sunday, and notice what Jesus does that no other priest could do.

MEMORY CHECK

Can you say Romans 10:9 or 10:13 from memory? Try it with someone this weekend.

ONE THING GOD SHOWED ME THIS WEEK