

INTERNATIONAL REFORMED EVANGELICAL SEMINARY

**THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GLORY OF CHRIST  
IN THE THOUGHT OF MARTIN LUTHER  
FROM THE LATE MEDIEVAL PERSPECTIVE**

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**DECLARATION OF APPROVED THESIS**

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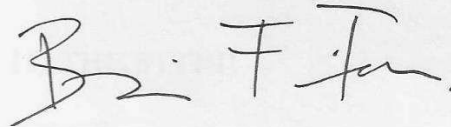
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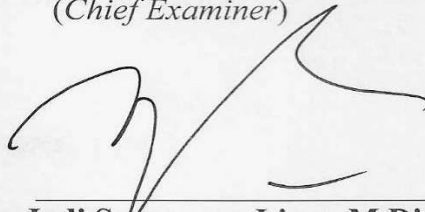
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***Sola Dei Gloria***

In memory of  
my dad Ruisheng Lin and mom Panfen Zeng,  
and all the pastors and brothers and sisters in Christ  
who have helped me to grow in Christ,

To the students of  
International Reformed Evangelical Seminary (STTRII), Jakarta

To the members of  
Reformed Evangelical Church of Indonesia (GRII), Jakarta  
St. George's Anglican Church, Montreal  
Montreal Chinese Baptist Church  
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***But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.***<sup>1</sup>

— Martin Luther

***“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”***

— Rev. 5:12b

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<sup>1</sup> Luther, *Luther’s works*, vol. 27: *Lectures on Galatians*, 1535, 1999, 133

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***Soli Deo Gloria! Amen!***

## Abstract

In this study, we first briefly survey the late medieval thought that fell short of the glory of Christ, focusing on the sources and methods, the person and the work of Christ, and the theology of glory (scholasticism). At the heart of the problems with the late medieval theology is its anthropocentric doctrines of Revelation, Christology and Soteriology that displaced the authority of Christ by the church and its tradition, the office of Christ by the Pope, Mary and the saints, the work of Christ by human virtues/merits, the Word of the cross by scholastic thought, covering up the glory of Christ. We then historically and systematically examine the thought of Luther, how he restored the theocentric doctrines of Christ by exalting *sola Scriptura* (sovereign authority of Scripture), *solus Christus* (His exclusive identity and all-sufficient work), *sola fide* (justification by faith alone) and *sola gratia* (through grace alone) from the perspectives of the sources and methods, the person and the work of Christ and the theology of the cross. Luther profoundly deepened the doctrines of the Word of God, justification by faith, the nature of sin and the cross. We show that the glory of Christ plays a central role in his thought, which had a significant impact on the Reformation, for the church to recover the Word, the way, the glory of Christ and to counter the unbiblical doctrines, teachings and practices based on human reason, speculations and works in the late Middle Ages.