

Message from the Editor: Completing the Five *Solas* of the Reformation ... and Other Things

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In the year 2017, the five-hundredth anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo (ETSC) held a series of talks on the famous five *solas* of the Reformation: *Sola Fide* (by faith alone), *Sola Scriptura* (by Scripture alone), *Solus Christus* (through Christ alone), *Sola Gratia* (by grace alone), and *Soli Deo Gloria* (glory to God alone). In the previous volume, the CJT published three of these talks. In volume 5, we complete the set with articles on *Sola Scriptura* and *Sola Fide*, which were presented and written by ETSC's president and its president of the board, Atef Mehany Masaramy and Youssaf Samir, respectively.

A third article was contributed by Benson Ohihon Igboin of the University of South Africa. Igboin writes about the secularization of Africa, which to many readers may seem to be a non sequitur if one begins with the common assumption that Africa is a uniquely religious continent. Yet Igboin makes a good case for why this is so and what should be done about it.

This issue concludes, appropriately, with a book review Eric Metaxas' recent biography of Martin Luther, which was timed for the five-hundredth anniversary of the Reformation. Metaxas is a well-known author whom many readers may remember for his very popular biography of Dietrich Bonhoeffer in 2011. In his newest work, Metaxas presents a fast-paced biography of Luther in a popular style that will appeal to scholars as well as the laity. Metaxas is particularly concerned to explode the various myths about Luther that have become the conventional wisdom of our time. While Egyptians are often accused of perpetuating myths and legends about their religious past, but Metaxas reminds us that Westerners can be just as guilty of this victimless crime.