

Solus Christus: Christ Alone

Five Solas Biblical Study

Welcome back to our 5 part series on the Solas of the Reformation.

- The 5 Solas are as follows: Sola Scriptura, Solus Christus, Sola Gratia, Sola Fide, and Soli Deo Gloria.
- The latin phrase Sola means _____.
- Grace alone (sola Gratia), through Faith alone (sola Fide), in Christ alone (solus Christus), based on Scripture alone (sola Scriptura), for the glory of God alone (soli Deo gloria)
- These 5 declarations were pivotal in proclaiming the truth of our Salvation.

What we discovered last week when we sought to understand Sola Scriptura or Scripture Alone

- Was without the centrality of God's Word being the foundation in which our understanding of God comes from,
- The church would begin teaching all sorts of heresies and false doctrines.
- Heresies and false teachings crept in and did great harm to the believer's in the middle ages.

The reformation began with an Augustinian Monk by the name of _____ Luther.

- Martin Luther began studying God's Word and began noticing clear differences between what the Bible taught and the church taught.
- He then nailed ___ thesis, or questions, to the castle church door in Wittenburg, Germany in hopes of debating these questions.

While there were many questions that the reformers addressed and tested to God's Word, there was none more important than the question of _____.

- Through reading the Bible we discovered one incredible truth: The greatness and magnitude of our _____, and the continual rebellion of _____.
- Man and God are at complete opposite ends of the Spectrum.
- How can a sinful person be _____ to a Holy God.

When it came to answering this all important question, the Catholic Church and the Reformers had two very different answers.

The Catholic Church did not believe in Solus Christus but in Christus et

- The Latin work et stands for "_____"
- So, the Catholic Church believed Salvation was found in Jesus and.

The Protestant reformation believed that the Scriptures did not speak to this end.

- Salvation was in Christ _____ and not Christ and.
- Jesus was and continues to be all sufficient for Salvation.

[John 5:39 \(ESV\)](#)

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,

[Luke 24:27 \(ESV\)](#)

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

- One of my favorite expressions on Sunday morning is declaring that Jesus is not a way, He is _____ way.

[John 14:6 \(ESV\)](#)

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

- Jesus is the only way to the Father.

Salvation is by and through _____ else.

[Acts 4:7–12 \(ESV\)](#)

And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

There is no greater value and no greater possession than Jesus.

[Philippians 3:8 \(ESV\)](#)

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

We can actually see __ of the Solas in these next two verses including Solus Christus:

[Romans 5:1–2 \(ESV\)](#)

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

- The Reformers were not creating a new doctrine.
- They were discovering what was _____ in the Bible but hidden through church piety.

Question Time: There are three questions I want us to dialogue about. We will approach one at a time.

- **Do you now or have you ever believed that Eternal Life depended on something or someone other than Jesus?**
- **Do you now or have you ever believed that your Salvation required Jesus and something else?**

- **What was that something else?**
- The Catholic Church believed that _____ also saved you.
- Jesus and Baptism was necessary if one was to go to heaven.
- However, Baptism it is the _____ of our Salvation, not to be saved.

[Luke 23:43 \(ESV\)](#)

And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Baptism symbolizes the accomplished work of Jesus and we _____ it in faith as a result of our salvation publicly.

[Romans 6:4 \(ESV\)](#)

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

We are called to go and make disciples and when we do this, we _____ them.

[Matthew 28:19 \(ESV\)](#)

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

- Baptism is the _____ step in obedience to the saving grace given to us in Jesus.

Now, there is a verse that has caused many people to believe that Baptism is what saves us.

[1 Peter 3:21 \(ESV\)](#)

Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

However, if this is the case, it would _____ so many passages that over and over speak to Jesus alone being what Saves us.

- When Paul and Peter and John and the Disciples all speak of Salvation, they do not include baptism in their call.
- But, as a result of accepting the call, they invite them into the waters of Baptism.
- The context is peaking about Noah in the flood in the verses before.

[1 Peter 3:20 \(ESV\)](#)

because they formerly did not obey, when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.

So, when Peter says, in verse 21, Baptism, which corresponds to this, the “_____” he is speaking about is the flood.

- He is making a connection with the flood and Baptism.

The key is the appeal to God for a good conscience.

- As a response to God from a good conscience.

Which is our key to understanding this, it is an appeal or a _____, that we give, because of the resurrection of Jesus, to be baptized.

- Not that the baptism itself is what saves us, but because Jesus now saves us, in reference to the ark, our response is to be baptized.
- It is actually a verse that doesn't speak about us being saved by baptism, but why as believers we should be baptized.

Next, Jesus and Church Membership.

- Again, let me say that Jesus died for the church and the local congregation of believers is God's Plan A and there is no Plan B.
- I cannot address with how important being a part of a local congregation is and how it is mandated for us.

[Hebrews 10:25 \(ESV\)](#)

not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

We are _____ when we neglect to gather and meet together to worship and hear from God through His Word.

But, Rome took this too far and said that if you are not a part of church _____ then you cannot be saved.

God works through the church, He calls us to mission through the church, we fulfil our purpose through the church.

- The church needs to be held as high as we can in our minds, but, the church does _____ save you.

Let's now go to Mary. The Catholic church looks at Mary as the Co-redemptrix.

- Saint Alphonsus once penned these words in prayer:

"I worship thee, great Queen, and give thee thanks for the many favors thou hast bestowed on me in the past; most of all do I thank thee for having saved me from hell, which I had so often deserved."

The Catholic church teaches that not only Jesus but also Mary _____ to saving us.

I have nothing to point to biblically because this concept is not found anywhere in the Bible.

[Mark 3:32-34 \(ESV\)](#)

And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you." And he answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!"

Why would Jesus say such a thing about his Mother if she was necessary and going to be what saves us?

- Mary was absolutely the _____ of Jesus.
- Mary should be looked to in the same way we look to other _____ biblical individuals.
- But, Mary just like us, needed a Savior.

- We can learn much from Mary, but, we must not _____ Mary above what Scripture does.
- We can honor Mary and the disciples, and we should think very highly of them, but also remember they pointed us to _____.
- That _____ is where our worship should be and where our Salvation lies.

Lastly lets look Jesus and good works.

- This is probably the area that Christians _____ with more than any other topic.
- What may shock you is that works is absolutely required for Salvation.
- It is the works of _____ that are required, not the works of you and I.

We are now invited into God's rest through faith.

[Hebrews 4:10 \(ESV\)](#)

for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

Works do not save us, grace does through Jesus.

[Romans 3:24 \(ESV\)](#)

and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

This is made even clearer later in the letter to Rome from Paul.

[Romans 11:6 \(ESV\)](#)

But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

Grace isn't grace if you have to _____ it.

Paul gets even clearer when he writes to the Galatians.

[Galatians 2:16 \(ESV\)](#)

yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

So then what are our works for?

- Good works _____ our Salvation.
- They are the _____ of our salvation not to save us.

Rome declared that it is faith plus works that bring us to Salvation.

- The reformers declared through this Sola that it is Christ Alone, not Christ and _____.

[Titus 2:14 \(ESV\)](#)

who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

We were redeemed and purified so we can be zealous for good works.

If we say we have faith, but do not show good works, James says you have dead faith.

- You do not have _____ faith.

[James 2:17 \(ESV\)](#)

So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

[James 2:26 \(ESV\)](#)

For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

One way we are called to test to see if we have true and authentic faith is to test and see we are exhibiting good works.

Question Time, here are 3 Questions for us to wrestle with:

- 1. Why is it hard for us to trust and submit that Jesus is truly enough?**
- 2. In what ways are we today tempted to shy away from or forget Christ Alone?**
- 3. Why is Christ Alone so difficult for others to accept?**

Solus Christus is a vital and important doctrine to the church.

- While it has always been this way, it is only within the past _____ years that it has been brought forth with great clarity and defended reverently.
- If we are not willing to discuss these topics, and if we are not equipped to _____ the faith, then we will quickly lose hold of the truths that were given to us.
- We must hold fast to these truths today and be willing to teach them to the next _____.

Write any additional questions below.