

Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church

November 5, 2017

Series: 5 Solas

Sermon: *Solus Christus*

Scripture: Romans 3:9-26

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Because this year is the 500th anniversary of the *Protestant Reformation*, we have been going through some Bible doctrines that were re-affirmed and re-captured during that movement.

We have talked about **Grace alone**- salvation being by God's grace alone and not man's doing/ God giving new life to, not to sick people, but dead people.

It is through the means of **Faith Alone**, not of works lest anyone be able to boast before God.

Last week we looked at **Scripture Alone**. The Bible is God breathed and is the only infallible and sufficient rule for governing issues of life and doctrine.

Today we will look at the doctrine of **Christ Alone**, Solus Christus.

Let's pray together.

“Almighty God and heavenly Father, king of the universe, grant now that we might behold wonderful things in your word. Incline our hearts to your testimonies and not to selfish gain. Turn our eyes from looking at worthless things and give us life in your ways. Grant that we might behold your glory as we look at God the Son, Jesus Christ. And as we behold him, I pray that by your grace we might be changed from one degree of glory to another. Be exalted oh God in our minds and in our hearts and cause us by your Holy Spirit to see and savor Jesus Christ, the only mediator between us and yourself. In whose name we pray to you. Amen”

The fundamental question we want to ask today is this...

How can we be saved?

We might ask it in various ways:

How can we go to heaven someday?

How is a sinner like me to be made right with a holy righteous God?

How can we have favor with God?

How can we be saved?

In Christ alone?

or is there some other way?

The church in Rome said Christ + your own merits.
The Reformers said 'Christ alone'.

Turn in your Bibles to Romans chapter 3.
We will begin in verse 9.

We want to simply lay out.... the state that man is in
before the Most High God...and to look at what the Bible
says about how we can be saved in CHRIST ALONE.

[**Read Romans 3:9**]

***“All, both Jews and Greeks...and Americans...and
Chinese....and Indonesians...and Indians...and
everyone else...are under sin.”***

Under sin.
Sin is our master.
Sin is heavy.
We are under the power of sin.
We love it.
We can't stop doing it.
We are in trouble.
All of us.

Paul quotes the Old Testament to help us understand.

Look at verse 10.

[**Read Romans 3:10-20**]

None righteous.
Not one.
All are worthless.
No one does good.
Not even one.

That is our state. **Under sin.**

He goes on to explain what the law does 3 things:

1. **'every mouth may be stopped'**
2. **'the whole world may be held accountable to God.'**
3. **shows us our sin.**

As the *New City Catechism* says,

Question: "If no one can keep the law, what is its purpose?"

Answer: that we may know the holy nature of God and the sinful nature of our hearts...and thus our need for a savior.

Everyone will place their hand over their mouth before God.

No one will stand before God at the judgment seat and be able to say they are innocent. (apart from Christ)

Accountable to GOD!

"GUILTY!" will be the verdict.

Under sin.
Not righteous.
Not good.
Not able to defend yourself.
Accountable to God.

So, is there any hope for man?

[**Read Romans 3:21-22**]

Circle the word **BUT** in your Bible.

**“The righteousness of God has been manifested”
“The righteousness of God through faith in Jesus
Christ for all who believe.”**

An alien righteousness. A righteousness from the outside. Another righteousness. Not yours or mine but another.

C.E.B Cranfield defines this as ***“a status of righteousness before God, which is God’s gift.”***

Or as **Lewis and Demerest** say in their Systematic Theology book, ***“A righteousness that comes from God that provides right standing with him.”***

How do we get this righteousness from God?

Through Jesus Christ.

He explains further how this transaction took place in verses 23-26.

[**Read Romans 3:23-26**]

He restates the point again by saying,
“all have sinned”
“all fall short”
and then he gives us the glorious good news of how it happens.

all who believe are **“Justified by his grace as a gift through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”**

justified means “reckoning or counting as righteous.”

God declares a sinful person to be ‘just’ on the basis of the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

So, let’s get the picture.
I’m standing in a court room before the Judge.
I am guilty.

I’m a rebel.
I’m a thief.
I’m an adulterer.
I’m a liar.
I’m a murderer.

The evidence is there.

I have no righteousness.
I must be held accountable for my actions.
I deserve punishment!

And the Judge says, "I DECLARE you innocent."
"I DECLARE you righteous in my sight."

That doesn't seem right!

He can't just sweep it under the rug!
He can't just say, "Let's just let it go."
He wouldn't be a JUST and RIGHTEOUS Judge if he did that.

Well, he didn't do that. There had to be payment.

'Justice must be served'!

verse 25, *Christ Jesus*, "**whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood**"

Jesus Christ steps up.... and is put forward before the Judge and offers himself as a payment for sin.
He takes our sin on himself.
He gives us his righteousness.

God must be JUST...he must punish sin.
Someone HAD to pay.

Jesus paid it all.

God DECLARES a person righteous who believes in Jesus Christ.

The Roman Catholic church in the time of the Reformation and today does not believe in justification by Christ alone. A person is NOT declared righteous.

A person is 'developed' in them over their lifetime and maybe afterwards.

They believe that a person, after an infusion of grace at baptism, must participate in the sacraments. Christ + something else NOT Christ alone.

Let's finish up with some verses about our Lord, Jesus Christ.

[Read [John 14:6](#)]

[Read [Philippians 2:5-11](#)]

[Read [1 Timothy 2:5-6](#)]

[Read [Acts 4:12](#)]

Last week, when we talked about *Sola Scriptura*, I said that 'for most of you, it's not whether you BELIEVE the Bible but whether you love it.'

I think the same thing is maybe true for *Solus Christus*.

There may be some of you today that don't believe in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation.

If you have questions about that, I'd love to talk to you about it.

For most of us the question is not 'Do we believe in Jesus'.

The question is do we LOVE JESUS CHRIST ?

Are our affections for Jesus Christ?
Christ alone for salvation? YES.

What do we talk about?

Do we spend time with Jesus Christ?

Does Jesus consume our thoughts?

Christ alone in affection?