

Romans 5:12-21

During these 5 weeks in October we are looking at each of the 5 solas of the Protestant reformation.

1. The Protestant reformation began on October 31, 1517 when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the castle church door in Wittenburg Germany.
  - a. That reformation spread throughout Europe to France (John Calvin), Scotland (John Knox), England (William Tyndale), Swizerland (Ulrich Zwngli) and more.
  - b. As it spread it became known as the Protestant Reformation...and that is where we got our start!
2. Last week we looked at *Sola scriptura*: Scripture Alone. Scripture is God's inspired Word, it is the only inerrant, sufficient, and final authority for the church.
3. Today in Romans 5, we will see *Solus Christus*: Christ Alone. *Solus Christus* is the assertion that Christ alone is the basis on which the ungodly are justified in God's sight.

*Only Christ is the whole of man's happiness, the sun to enlighten him, the physician to heal him, the ark to support him, the rock to sustain him under the heaviest pressures... Only Christ is that ladder between earth and heaven, the mediator between God and man. Here is a blessed subject indeed; who would not be glad to pry into it?* Isaac Ambrose

If we are not in Christ, we are in trouble.

1. We are either in Adam and sentenced to death
2. Or we are in Christ and granted life.

Romans 5 makes it clear.

### **I. The First Adam      Verses 12-14**

*Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned-- 13 for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.*

1. **The first Adam was the son of God who literally sinned.**
  - a. Luke 3:38 *the son of Adam, the son of God.*
  - b. Genesis 1-3
  - c. His was the original sin
2. **We are all descendants of the first Adam and infected by his sin.**
  - a. Eve was called the mother of all the living
  - b. According to a New Science article in 2014, *"If you trace back the DNA in the maternally inherited mitochondria within our cells, all humans have a theoretical common ancestor. Since Eve's time, different populations of humans have drifted apart genetically, forming the distinct ethnic groups we see today."*
  - c. As Adam's descendants, we inherit a sin nature.

### 3. As descendants of the first Adam we have been affected by his sin.

- a. Because, biologically speaking, we were in Adam we all sinned with him.
  - b. Heb 7:7-10 *It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. In the one case tithes are received by mortal men, but in the other case, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him*
  - c. We have inherited the fallenness and depravity of our father Adam.
  - d. Humans are not sinners because they sin, but rather they sin because they are sinners.
4. Like our father Adam, we will all die

a. Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

b. Hebrews 9:27 *And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment*

5. This isn't right! We shouldn't be affected because our father Adam sinned: Drug addicted babies

This is how ALL humanity has been born and where ALL humanity is, except for one man.

## II. The Last Adam

*15 But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. 16 The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification. 17 For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.*

How did the last Adam avoid the infection and affect of the first Adam's sin?

### 1. Christ, like Adam, was the Son of God.

- a. Christ, like the first Adam, was born without a sin nature...he bypassed father Adam
- b. Christ was not, in His human nature, descended from Adam by ordinary generation, and so the guilt of Adam's first transgression was not imputed to Him under the covenant of works.
- c. Luke 1:26-38

### 2. Christ, like Adam, was tempted but, unlike Adam, He perfectly obeyed.

- a. Luke 4:13 *When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.*
- b. He resisted every temptation Satan threw at him
- c. Hebrews 4:15 *For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin*

### 3. Christ, like Adam, suffered the penalty for sin...but unlike Adam it was not His own

- a. 2 Corinthians 5:21 *He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

b. *“Lord Jesus, You are my righteousness; I am Your sin. You took on You what was mine, yet set on me what was Yours. You became what You were not, that I might become what I was not.”*  
Martin Luther of Germany

#### 4. **Christ, like Adam, died.**

a. Heb 2:14-17 *Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.*

b. A honey bee can sting only once. The devil is the same.

1. He may hiss at us, but he cannot hurt us; by that wound which Christ received at his death, he wounded all his enemies irrecoverably.
2. “Oh Death where is your sting?”

c. *Live in Christ, die in Christ, and the flesh need not fear death.* John Knox

#### 5. **Christ Rose again!**

a. The bruising of his head, it is the overthrowing of Satan’s power: “he shall bruise thy head,” i.e. Christ shall break thy power; Christ shall destroy sin, and death, and “him that had the power of death, that is the devil.”

b. 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 *For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive*

#### 6. **Just as it is certain that we were born in Adam, the son of God, it is possible for us to be born again and in Christ, the Son of God**

*18 So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. 19 For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous. 20 The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, 21 so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

a. 1 Corinthians 15:44-49 *Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life- giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven*

b. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, and no one comes to the Father but by Him.

c. GOSPEL...Christ alone!

I was years and years upon the brink of hell—I mean in my own feeling. I was unhappy, I was desponding, I was despairing. I dreamed of hell. My life was full of sorrow and wretchedness, believing that I was lost.”

Charles Spurgeon used these strong words to describe his adolescent years. Despite his Christian upbringing (he was christened as an infant, and raised in the Congregational church), and his own efforts (he read the Bible and prayed daily), Spurgeon woke one January Sunday in 1850 with a deep sense of his need for deliverance.

Because of a snowstorm, the 15-year-old's path to church was diverted down a side street. For shelter, he ducked into the Primitive Methodist Chapel on Artillery Street. An unknown substitute lay preacher stepped into the pulpit. Spurgeon said, "He was obliged to stick to his text, for the simple reason that he had little else to say. The text was, Isaiah 45:22, "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth."

When he had managed to spin out ten minutes or so, he was at the end of his tether. Then he looked at me under the gallery, and I daresay, with so few present, he knew me to be a stranger. Just fixing his eyes on me, as if he knew all my heart, he said, "Young man, you look very miserable." Well, I did, but I had not been accustomed to have remarks made from the pulpit on my personal appearance before. However, it was a good blow, struck right home.

He continued, "and you always will be miserable—miserable in life, and miserable in death—if you don't obey my text; but if you obey now, this moment, you will be saved." Then, lifting up his hands, he shouted, as only a Primitive Methodist could do, "Young man, look to Jesus Christ. Look! Look! Look! You have nothin' to do but to look and live." I saw at once the way of salvation . . . I had been waiting to do fifty things, but when I heard that word, "Look!" What a charming word it seemed to me! Oh! I looked until I could almost have looked my eyes away. There and then the cloud was gone, the darkness had rolled away, and that moment I saw the sun; and I could have risen that instant, and sung with the most enthusiastic of them, of the precious blood of Christ, and the simple faith which looks alone to HIM . . .

Look unto Christ!

### **Conclusion:**

All other things are thorns, vexation of spirit, but Christ is full of joy and comfort, a most ravishing object, all composed of loves, or altogether lovely.

1. Must you look off your sins! Why, see before you the graces of the Spirit of Christ.
2. Must you look off your idle sinful company? See before you the fellowship with the father, and with his son, Jesus Christ.
3. Must you look off your pomp and glory? See before you the privilege of adoption. You will be called heirs, the sons and daughters of God, heirs and joint heirs with Christ!
4. Must you look off worldly riches? See before you the riches of the graces of Christ. Must you look off simple pleasures? See before you fullness of joy, at Christ's right hand there are pleasures evermore.
5. Must you look off your own righteousness? See before you the righteousness of Christ Jesus.

Consider, that Christ looked off heaven and heavenly things for you, how much more should you look off the earth and earthly things, the world and worldly things for him? He nothing'd himself (as it were) for you.

**Oh who would make it his business to fill his coffers with pebbles, when he may have pearls, or gold, or silver, or precious things?**

## Look to Christ alone

1. You have all been born once and thus sentenced to death, hell, and the grave.
2. Look to Christ and be born again and set free from death to life, from hell to heave, and from the grave to the future resurrection.