

The 5 Solas: Solus Christus (Christ Alone) 1 Timothy 2:5-6; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Col 1:15-18

INTRODUCTION

Please turn in your Bible to 1 Timothy 2:5-6. The world of 16th century Western Europe was different in many ways from ours and yet important ways the same. **They had no electricity or the technologies and lifestyle comforts we enjoy.** We have to watch reality shows or Netflix originals, documentaries or movies on the big screen to get closer to understanding what living was like back then.

One clear way it was different was religiously. The medieval church was the only church in town. Nobody had a Bible, and nobody thought, I should have a Bible. It just wasn't the way it was. **There was one religious voice in the town—the priest of the church.** He represented God to you and you to God. You went to him to confess your sins. You saw him handle the sacraments believing he was handling the very body and blood of Jesus. He led the Mass re-crucifying Jesus in its beliefs and rituals. He told you how to get heaven. He spoke for God. He was your priest. Your Father. **Your human intermediary between you and God.** The church taught that it was the dispenser of grace through sacraments and indulgences. The vestments of the priests reminded you that you were not set apart to God like the priests were. The cathedrals, candles, and rituals were dark, foreboding, shrouded, and everything seemed mysterious. **Unknowable.**

What was the same was that the people were just like you and me. They pondered the meaning of life. They wondered about their futures and the future of their children. They longed to know their Creator personally. They wanted the same answer we do, what happens to me when I die?

Into that medieval culture came light—light in the form of truth even older than the papacy, the Mass, and the basilicas. What was it? **The gospel of Jesus Christ rediscovered out of the spiritual fog and corruption of the medieval church.**

How? As we have been learning in our **Sola series**, through **Sola Scriptura**. Not from the teachings and opinions of men but from the actual text of Scripture itself. **What? Sola Gratia**

(Grace Alone). Not our reaching to God but His sovereign grace reaching to us. **How? Sola Fide (Faith Alone).** Christ's righteousness given to us as a gift by faith. At the bedrock of it all was and is a "**who.**" The object of the faith that alone justifies, was and forever will be Jesus Christ. This became one of the solas. **Solus Christus. Christ Alone.**

For this morning, let's divide our study in two parts.

First, please note...

I. Solus Christus: _____

As we have seen with the other solas, **Solus Christus** was the Reformers' reaction against adding anything to Jesus' work. **It was a question of sufficiency.** **Solus Christus** insists that Jesus' person and work is all-sufficient. Jesus doesn't need any help from us. His death on the cross was a one-time satisfactory payment for sin. **One and done.**

When we discuss the Reformation slogan **Solus Christus**, it is important to understand the precise point of dispute. The Reformers did not reject the Roman Catholic Church's doctrine of the person of Christ. **The problem, then, was not the person of Christ. The problem was the work of Christ.** The debate centered on the sacramental system that Rome had constructed, a system in which the grace of Christ was mediated to the people through an elaborate system of priests and sacramental works. **Through this sacramental system, the Roman church effectively controlled the Christian's life from birth (baptism) to death (extreme unction) and even beyond (masses for the dead).**

The Reformers recognized one simple reality – it is either Christ alone through which our salvation comes, or it is "**no gospel at all**" (**Galatians 1:6-7**). Nothing can be added to the work of Christ – not Christ plus tradition; not Christ plus works; not Christ plus anything. His life, substitutionary death and resurrection was all-sufficient for our salvation.

Here's a good explanation of what Solus Christus

means: Christ alone (His death and resurrection) is

_____ **for salvation and that He alone is**

_____ **in all things.**

If this is true, and it is, then the following statements are also true:

- **Salvation is through Christ alone, and not through Christ and the Church as _____ of grace.**
- **Salvation is through Christ alone and not through Christ _____ the merits or intercession or mediation of any other.**
- **Salvation is through Christ alone and not through Christ _____ any practice of penance in this life or in the next or through any supposed good _____.**
- **Salvation is through Christ alone and in this life alone, after which is the final judgment, which vindicates the divine justice in judging humanity in unbelief.**

We live in an age in which our culture has largely abandoned the notion of truth, objective truth. One hundred years ago most Americans shared a common moral code based to a large degree on the teachings of the Bible. **Even people who were not Christian made their moral judgments based largely on what we today call the “Judeo-Christian” tradition.** There was a large consensus that certain things were right and others wrong, that some things were permitted in society and others were not. That shared consensus gave enormous stability to the culture and allowed people from diverse backgrounds to live together in peace.

Against the prevailing moral relativism of the day, consider these “exclusive” claims regarding **Jesus Christ**:

- **He is the _____ Son of God – John 3:16**
- **He is the _____ name – Acts 4:12**
- **He is the _____ way – John 14:6**
- **He is the _____ mediator between God and man – 1 Timothy 2:5**
- **He is the _____ sacrifice for sin – Hebrews 10:12**

From beginning to end, the gospel exalts Christ and Christ alone. He is the One who came from heaven to seek the lost (**Luke 19:10**). He is the One who obeyed the Law perfectly. He is the One who was crucified, and He is the One who rose again. We are the grateful recipients of His bounty (abundance). We are the beggars, and He is the Benefactor. We are the lepers, and He is the Healer. We are turmoil, and He is Peace. **Solus Christus...Christ alone!**

Sola Christus explained...next please note...

II. Sola Christus: APPLIED

There are many spiritual counterfeits in circulation today.

Let me mention some of them briefly:

A. Christ plus the _____.

B. Christ plus _____.

C. Christ plus _____ or the _____.

D. Christ plus good works of any _____.

Here's a thought you can **ponder**: to trust in Jesus means to trust so completely in Him that you are willing to go to _____ if Jesus alone cannot save you.

CONCLUSION

What can we take with us this morning? Because of Solus Christus, Christ alone or through Christ alone, here are some practical truths to consider:

- **We may come _____ to Christ without human mediators**
- **When Christ died on the Cross, He _____ the work of salvation**
- **Saving faith is nothing less than total _____ on Christ _____, entirely apart from human works or human effort of any _____**
- **When Christ saves us, we are _____ saved and _____ saved**
- **We must _____ Christ and not self-improvement, because apart from Christ there is no _____ of salvation**

The gospel is not about how you can be financially successful, have good self-esteem, be happy, or have a happy family. The gospel (good news) is that you can be rescued from God's judgment through trusting in Christ's sinless life, sacrificial death, and bodily resurrection (**1 Cor. 15:1-4; 2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 8:1-3; Heb. 10:1-10**). You can't save yourself or help Christ save you. Rather, you must trust in Him alone to save you. **Christ alone and only Christ. Solus Christus!**