Christ, the Exclusive Savior
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I. Introduction: The "Prescriptive Pluralism" of our Day

II. Two Questions, Three Positions

A. Two Questions

1. Is Jesus the only Savior? More fully: Is the sinless life of Christ and his atoning death and resurrection the only means by which the penalty of sin is paid and the power of sin defeated?

2. Is faith in Christ necessary to be saved? More fully: Is conscious knowledge of Christ's death and resurrection for sin and explicit faith in Christ necessary for anyone to become a recipient of the benefits of Christ's atoning work and so be saved?

B. Three Positions (as seen by how each position answers each of these two questions)

1. Pluralism: answers Q1. _____ and Q2. _____ (e.g., John Hick)

2. Inclusivism: answers Q1. _____ and Q2. _____ (e.g., Clark Pinnock)

3. Exclusivism: answers Q1. _____ and Q2. _____ (e.g., John Piper, Ron Nash, Bruce Ware)

III. Defense of Exclusivism

A. Jesus is the Only Savior

1. Christ alone was conceived and born of a Virgin (Isa 7:14; Matt 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38)

2. Christ alone is God Incarnate (John 1:1-18; Hebrews 1:1-3; 2:14-18; Phil 2:5-11; 1 Tim 2:5-6)

3. Christ alone Lived a Sinless Life (2 Cor 5:21; Heb 4:15; 7:23-28; 9:13-14; 1 Pet 2:21-24)

4. Christ alone Died a Penal, Substitutionary Death (Isa 53:4-6; Rom 3:21-26; Gal 3:10-14)

5. Christ alone Rose from the Dead Triumphant over Sin (Acts 2:22-24; Rom 4:25; 1 Cor 15:3-8, 16-23)

6. Christ alone is Savior according to Dominical and Apostolic Teaching (John 3:16, 18, 36; 14:6; Acts 4:10-12)

B. Faith in Christ is Necessary to be Saved

1. Jesus' own teaching shows that the nations need to hear and repent to be saved (Luke 24:44-49)

2. Paul's teaching that even pious Jews, and everyone else, must hear and believe in Christ to be saved (Romans 10:1-4, 13-15)

3. Cornelius's story demonstrates that even pious Gentiles must hear and believe in Christ to be saved (Acts 10:1-2, 38-43; 11:13-18)

IV. Conclusion and Application