



“The Reformation / A Celebration of Historical Perseverance”

5 Solas wk. 4 – Solus Christus

By Pastor Jody May 11/21/2021

Hebrews 1:1-4; 9:15 ESV

1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, **2** but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. **3** He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, **4** having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

15 Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

[CONNECT/INTRO]

During the Reformation we see the Catholic Church **controlling the life** of the Christian from Cradle to Grave, as in they claimed the power of Salvation through Sacraments.

- Baptized as an Infant
- Confirmed as a Youth
- Confessions in life
- Married as a Mature Person
- Extreme Unction's @ death
- Receiving the Eucharist
- Ordination in the priesthood

All the Reformer's work ended up taking away control from the church, cancelled out the need for all those sacraments, and put in place only two sacraments that we still follow today: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

With no more corrupt people and systems between them and God, what should they do now? **Luther –“Believers should look to Christ Alone.” & “The Cross alone in our Theology”.**

Why is that important for us today?

1st let's look at this from the world or lost perspective...



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Because as human beings we are **quick to give control to person or a system**, to work out a plan for us on how to make our lives better or give us a sense of *saving ourselves*. One of the things that Jordan Peterson has warned westernized culture about today is that with the absence of religion it has caused a vacuum and secularism has taken its' place. This VOID of the soul, **to WORSHIP something**, invites false saviors and humanistic systems to take its' place. That's dangerous because **politics/social activism then becomes the new religion!** People need a way to feel good about who they are and the choices they make. They need to see that their sacrifice leads to a common good.

Morality is now no longer based on biblical standards anymore, but morality is based solely in the system into which you buy into. That's why people have endured less punishment for burning and looting businesses over the past year than for those who stormed the capital. **Morality is not based on whether you should or should not steal and vandalize but it is based on who you do it for.** Got to tell you all that is a scary place to be in because when power flips and it will again, who is going to be in the crosshairs next?

2nd what about those in the church world, or the westernized definition of evangelical...

Well, because as we stated earlier people are **quick to give control back to man or a system**, evangelicals desire to let someone work out a plan for how one should be saved. Evangelicals, due to the culture they live in, are quick to pick up on modern social cues like popularity, esthetics, political correctness, availability of resources, in a church and then determine that's where they should attend. Then they let that body determine for them the path for how to get to heaven.

Now, right or wrong, that's predominantly the way people choose a church (it's like buying a car). Instead of choosing the church that believes the right things, that requires your gifts, labors, and resources because that will cost you more. **BUT with that being said**, evangelicals are still uncomfortable with the thought of having to stand in front of a Holy God, to live a life without His favor, so they are seeking a system that is agreeable to the Almighty. So, wherever that Evangelical



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ends up, they will cling to the path of Salvation laid out before them, and they will go through whatever hoops they have to jump to keep their lives the way they are. In essence it's bondage...

But the 5 Solas are biblical truths that help us stand in front of God alone, **because of Christ the Mediator alone stands with us!** The 5 Solas change everything for us continually because it **teaches us that there is no more fear or shame placed on us by a third party** in trying to live for God. The 5 Solas help the Christian flourish wherever they live, in whatever situation they are in, because the Solas are helping us live the Truth that we are **living under Grace**. The 5 Solas defeat the feeling that you and I have to have a way to get to God, a way to earn Salvation, the anxiety to associate with the popular opinions, because to find the way to get to God is only found in Christ Alone!



What you will find is the further we move away from the simple truths of the 5 Solas the more you see that **people add visible tangibles** by which you can measure how well you are doing with God.

The only visible tangible that we can trust and if I may add should we trust is the Cross and the Empty Tomb. Christ's work was sufficient for us to get back to God we don't need to add anything else. As a matter of fact, **if you try to add to the Doctrine of the Cross and Resurrection** what you really end up doing is taking it away!

Main Point for the Day:

The closer one stays to the fires of the Reformation the warmer one is in finding Salvation – Solus Christus = through Jesus Alone!



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To celebrate this today we will look at three ways, from Hebrews, in which through Christ Alone comes our Salvation, destroying the need for tribal Salvation.

[TEXT] + [JESUS]

1. Christ is the only Savior!

Hebrews 1:1-3

1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

He (Jesus the Son) is the last Word of God. He is inheriting all things (v.2) + creator of all things (v.2) + exact image of God + maintainer of the universe (v.3). Do you get the picture of *who Jesus is!?* = Now we see why the Father, as it states in Ephesians 1:10, “*as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.*” To do otherwise would be hypocrisy. If the world is in rebellion against God, then it makes sense for God not to confuse things, not to make this hard to understand, but to simply lay it out for the world that there is only one name under heaven by which men are saved (Acts 4:12) = Jesus. One stop shopping! **There is one begotten son, there is one exact image, there is one source of life, there is only... ONE SAVIOR!**

[Challenge]

Now when I say this, the world loves to answer this way, “**That’s just your opinion, all ways can lead to God and Salvation, and everyone has their own way to get to God.**” – (**Relativism**). But the folks who use this philosophy many times abandon their ways of thinking when they run against Christian theology. They have a real problem accepting that we believe there is only one way.



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I am fine with their rejection of my religion but **what I am not fine** with is if I believe differently then, that makes me a hater, a bigot, and **intolerant**. Yet I don't think they would **tolerate other RELIGIOUS PRACTICES such as:** like the Brits did in the early 19th century, when they finally prevented the Hindus from the practice of burning a dead man's property along with his widow?¹ I think they would have spoken up when the Aztecs sacrificed thousands of people in a day ripping their hearts out!² Or even **what about present day** with the rise of the occult practices in present day **Africa where child sacrifice** is on the rise!³

Yeah, I don't think we would find many people tolerating other religious practices like that today. I think they would believe it was **indecent if they did not say something...** To be tolerant to that extent would be immoral.

In the same spirit, we, **intolerant Christians**, need to be willing today to let people know, for us **it is immoral if we don't tell them they are making big mistakes** in their views of God and their religious practices. That the loss of spiritual life is a danger we believe greater than the loss of physical life ([Mark 8:36](#))! And because of that we have to let them know of the **ONLY SAVIOR JESUS!**

And Just for the record it's not that I started out in life arrogant believing Jesus is the only way - **BUT Jesus BELIEVES that, and I have come to accept it (through scripture)**. Let me show you, and let's start out with a very bold statement by Jesus:

Jesus said to him, **“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” – John 14:6 ESV**

Way, 'a teaching' and this teaching is 'The Truth' and this Truth is what brings 'Life'.

What did He teach?

¹ <https://theculturetrip.com/asia/india/articles/the-dark-history-behind-sati-a-banned-funeral-custom-in-india/>

² <https://www.history.com/news/aztec-human-sacrifice-religion>

³ <https://www.worldvision.org/blog/5-things-need-know-child-sacrifice-uganda>



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- Aim of Religion is to please God and not man! – Mat. 6:2-6 pray as if only the Father sees you; Look at God as your father; the Lord’s Prayer Mat. 6:9-13
- True Religion ought to be about trusting God and not man; don’t lay your treasures up in earth; don’t be anxious in life and seek the Kingdom first! Mat. 6:19-33
- All of Jesus’ parables like the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, The Rich Man and Lazarus, the Lost Sheep, etc.. **all these teachings are taught as by someone who thinks they have the right to tell you exactly how you should feel and act!**

This is very dangerous for
it is all ANTI_SECULAR!

Jesus always taught as if someone had given Him the authority to do so and He taught in such a way that HE always thought HE was right!

And while this is condemning to us, it is also freeing because the Gospel teaches that Jesus pays for our condemning rebellion!

Here’s the other thing, a lot of people that don’t want to follow Jesus’ claim; **They like to say that Jesus was just a good man and just a good teacher.** I beg to differ.

According to the world’s standards Jesus was crazy, He believed that His blood was the only way for you to get right and demanded you accept it. **The same people that say HE’s a good guy would have never accepted Him!** As CS Lewis pointed out he was either insane, evil, or the Son of God! But a Good teacher you can’t say that, according to the world He is definitely not good, He needs a script for *Clozapine & Risperdal* along with electroshock therapy!

Some places in the world are starting to see the writing on the wall. They see the truth that Jesus is a dangerous man because of His radical claims. In places where Christianity has been blowing up lately, they are trying to shut it down. India is starting to crack down on missionaries and they have started to kick the church out of their country. China’s president, Xi Jinping, just made the commitment to



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make Communism again the religion of the land in 2017, and they are going after the underground church.

So, you see my people, the world is longing for us to pull away from the fire of the Reformation because it has to take away from Jesus’ purity, his claims, His teachings, His fanatical offers of peace, and even the claims that suffering can be used for good. It needs to water them down, it is trying to stomp it out, so that they can finally say He was a good man but He wasn’t the God man! He can’t be the **ONLY SAVIOR!?** But we must be persistent like our Reformer Fathers, and like Luther make the claim “Here I stand I can do no other.”

The closer one stays to the fires of the Reformation the warmer one is in finding Salvation –
Solus Christus = through Jesus Alone!

So let us start putting forth in our own lives that Jesus is the better choice! But for others to accept that we also have to show them the necessity of the second point.

2. Christ is the only Sacrifice!

Hebrews 1:3-4

³...After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Jesus accomplished all the work, sitting down means He was done! This purification for sins, we see in Romans 3 that we visited last week:

Romans 3: 24-25 ESV

“ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.”

We are made pure by Jesus’s work alone! Redeemed; bought back by His substituting efforts on our behalf for sins and substituting His righteousness and merit for mine. **And what’s more it is final! JESUS’ SITTING DOWN means that He doesn’t have to get up anymore, like a tired parent, when you/I sin.** There is



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no angst on His part. He never has to give more for you, it is complete, and it was enough!

In Luther’s day this doctrine was so freeing! People no longer needed to pay for indulgences, check off on all the sacraments, because purgatory could not be real because Jesus was enough!

Now as simple as that seems we all still suffer from the same things as our ancestors. I am starting to think more and more that our main problem is that we think way too much about ourselves and way too little about Jesus.

Don’t we always **wrestle** with the **feeling**, “**There is something I can do to make myself look better to God?**” We are the generation of over compensators and searchers. We are trying to redeem in ourselves what we don’t like! But when we believe “that” we are really disbelieving the Bible. It says in v.4 – “*having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.*” Jesus is the one that became more than anyone else in heaven and on earth. **He became the greatest, so we don’t have to strive to better our name, we get to share His.**

I It may be possible that some of us believe that Jesus came and died for us because He loved us because we **were so worthy** to be loved, that comes from the taint of humanistic doctrine incorporated into liberal minded churches over the last 200 years. As we said last week, we have grown up in a culture that teaches us we are born good, remember Pelagianism and Arminianism.

But the truth is that Jesus came and died because there was absolutely nothing worthy about us. Jesus didn’t die for you because of who you are outside the fact God simply wanted Him to do it and you were powerless to do anything!

Romans 5:28 *“God demonstrates His love for us that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.”*

Jesus loves you because He chose to love you but often when we sin, we act like we have **mislead** Jesus in our relationships, as in we have lied to Him about the



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relationship He was getting into (guilt). Jesus knows exactly what your like and He knows exactly what you will do before you do it! You can't disappoint someone who knows you like that.

When Jesus becomes your only sacrifice for sin, we no longer have to be caught up in guilty merit seeking, not the heaping on of shame and the attempts at self-punishment. The Gospel says Jesus' sacrifice only, excluding your attempts, is what makes you whole. But the world will forever offer ways to help you redeem yourself.

The closer one stays to the fires of the Reformation the warmer one is in finding Salvation –
Solus Christus = through Jesus Alone!

This brings us to our last point because only when you accept that He is your only Savior can you accept what He does for you in that role.

3. Christ is the only Mediator!

Hebrews 9:15 ESV

¹⁵ Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

1 Timothy 2:5 ESV

⁵ For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,...

Mediator – In the **Reformation period** this doctrine of Christ alone as our mediator negated two factors:

- First, I need to pray to saints who were considered more holy than me for extra help in my prayers.
- Secondly, I need to see my priest because of his elevated office to intercede and help me get to God.

But the doctrine of Solus Christus also means that Jesus was given, as Hebrews and 1 Timothy states, as my only and last person that is ever to come between me



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and my God. It is wrong for me to go to another priest, to another way of living, outside His way.

All Christians are to pray in His name, because it is in His name that all exists, it is for His name that all are to live, and it is by His name that all things are preserved (Hebrews 9:1-15)!

The Problem: But many of us still give in and try to find mediators don't we? We go to the people who will agree with our perceptions on our lives. People who say you deserve more, I can love you better than that, you should be happy, no one understands you, people who hit your emotional “Like” button over and over and over. INSTEAD, of you just first stopping and saying, “Lord Jesus hear me now, I need to talk!”

Helen Stirke (you read of her on Friday) died in 1543 Perth a Scotts Woman and Protestant, because she found the beauty of this truth, that Jesus was her Mediator alone.

While giving birth she gave a testimony to Christ being her only mediator in lieu of Catholic Tradition and praying to the Virgin Mary while giving birth.

“If I had lived in the days of the Virgin,” Helen, said with poise, “God might have looked likewise to my humility and base estate, as he did the Virgin’s, and might have made me the mother of Christ.” Because it was by Grace that God chose Mary not her works.

And soon after that event, it was leaked to the priest in that town who made it his duty to squash the protestant movement and had the happy couple murdered/execution. If you read it this week a few days later she watched her husband hanged and she was drowned for her slight against the Virgin Mary, a ritual contrived to make a show of being politically and spiritually correct, punishable by death. Before their unjust execution Helen was noted to walk up to her husband to say these words.



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“Husband, be glad, for we have lived together many joyful days, and this day, in which we must die, we ought to esteem the most joyful of all, because we shall have joy forever. Therefore I will not bid you good night, for we shall shortly meet in the kingdom of heaven.”

Because of having finally gained Christ Helen Stirke finally had the strength not to just face life but to face death, because her true mediator stood with her. Helen Stirke offered her life as a sacrifice, not to get into heaven, but because **she had already found it!** Jesus had already died to get her in and now the HS would help her die so that God could show us what does it look when someone has found the Kingdom. The life blood of the Reformers was to show us all what the Kingdom of God is worth. It is like discovering a treasure in a field and selling all you own to buy that field so you could acquire it ([Mat. 13:44-46](#))!

Because Jesus is our mediator, He too can give us the ability to endure all things that come our way because there is no separation between us and God. When Jesus is your mediator alone it means that you are already living in the state that you have it all.

My desire and prayer for us is to become people who cannot accept that all ways get to God and that from the sheer joy of what we have found in Him will drive us all to make the hard choices because our hearts are filled with love for Jesus Alone...

[Challenge]

Have you let other Saviors in your life today? A good way of figuring that out is ask yourself what makes you angry when it DOESN'T happen? Do you lose too much sleep over money, over political appointees, over your kids, or over health? That may tell you what you are putting your trust in something or someone else besides Christ. Helen Stirke, showed us that believing in the Right Savior may actually cost you, so please don't justify your lives by how comfortable you are but justify your life by how much you are able to proclaim Christ. In that she was rich!



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Do you find yourself running to other people, other than Christ, when you have a problem? Is your first step to pick up the phone and text a friend, or defend yourself on Social Media, or is your first step to pray to Jesus? That there, tells you who you believe your Mediator is. He is your defender and friend, you have not disappointed Him, He knows you too well. This week may you find joy when you seek first the Kingdom of God.

Friends if you know not Christ, perhaps you are neck deep into what this world has to offer, an alternate lifestyle, and alternate belief system, outside of scripture, then turn and believe in Jesus and renounce the god of this world. Find forgiveness from God, accept what Jesus did on the cross for you, cry out to have Him plead your case to the Father, and seek to live for Him.

Main Point for the Day:

The closer one stays to the fires of the Reformation the warmer one is in finding Salvation – *Solus Christus* = through Jesus the Christ Alone!

PRAYER

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the Father, that provided the way to get back to Him, in His Son ALONE.

Go in the name of the Son, that has showed us all the true path to God, by believing in His work and that it was done for you, live by this faith ALONE.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, that helps you to believe ALONE in Jesus for Salvation and propels you like Mrs. Stirke to share that good news with others.