

Subject: *Here We Stand: Christ Alone*

Scripture: *Hebrews 12:1-2*

October 31, 1517 was a pivotal day in history. On this day Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenburg, Germany. These were 95 points of debate concerning things in the church that were contrary to Scripture and the Gospel of Christ.

It is important to remember the history of the church and the Christian faith for at least two reasons: We need to know where we came from and how we got here. It is a matter of perspective. We need to know the truth and stand for it in our day. It is a matter of priorities.

There are some hills worth dying on. Some truths are absolutely foundational to our Christian faith and the health of the church. In 1517, Martin Luther took a stand and others stood with him. When he was challenged by the corrupt Roman Catholic Church of which he had been a part, they religious authorities asked him to recant his position, but he responded: "Here I stand. I can do no other, so help me God." Luther and other Reformers stood for these pillars of truth and it is our duty and privilege to stand with them.

Five "Solas" of the Reformation

- *Sola Scriptura* (Scripture Alone)
- *Solus Christus* (Christ Alone)
- *Sola Gratia* (Grace Alone)
- *Sola Fide* (Faith Alone)
- *Soli Deo Gloria* (For the Glory of God Alone)

The key word in each of these truths is the word "alone." The Roman Catholic Church claimed to believe in Scripture as their source of authority, but not in Scripture alone. They claimed to believe in Christ for salvation, but not in Christ alone. The reformers took a stand for the sufficiency of Scripture and the sufficiency of Christ.

The text in Hebrews 12 contains the phrase "looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith." Looking unto Jesus is not the same as looking at Jesus. Looking unto Jesus means we put our total trust and dependence in Him for salvation.

We have a perfect illustration of this in *Numbers 21:5-9*⁵ *And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.*⁶ *And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.*⁷ *Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.*⁸ *And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.*⁹ *And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.*

John 3:14-17 ¹⁴ *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:* ¹⁵ *That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.* ¹⁶ *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* ¹⁷ *For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*

The congregation of Israel was so large (probably 2-3 million), people at the edge of the camp could barely see the brazen serpent, but that didn't matter. Their salvation did not depend on how well they could actually see the serpent; it was a matter of trusting in the right object. This was God's chosen method to give life to dying people.

Jesus is God's only way of salvation. The Reformers had their own way of defining and defending the truth of "Christ Alone." I want us to look at the what the Bible says and let the Scripture speak for itself.

1. Christ alone is the Mediator between God and man

1 Timothy 2:5 *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*

1 John 2:1-2 ¹ *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*

2. Christ alone is the Sacrifice for our sin

Isaiah 53:6 *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

John 1:29 *The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*

Hebrews 9:12 *Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.*

3. Christ alone is the High Priest to intercede for us

Romans 8:33-34 ³³ *Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.* ³⁴ *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

Hebrews 7:23-27 ²³ *And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:* ²⁴ *But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.* ²⁵ *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.* ²⁶ *For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;* ²⁷ *Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.*

4. Christ alone is the Savior of sinners

Salvation means to rescue from danger. Our greatest danger is God's judgment and eternal punishment in hell.

Matthew 1:21 *And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

Luke 19:10 *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

Acts 4:12 *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

Jesus is the only one who can save us from the penalty of sin, from the power of sin, and from the presence and possibility of sin.

5. Christ alone is the Judge of all men

John 5:22-23 ²² *For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:* ²³ *That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father which hath sent him.*

Acts 17:30-31 ³⁰ *And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:* ³¹ *Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.*

Christ ALONE is the Mediator, the Sacrifice, the High Priest, the Savior, and the Judge. In all of these roles Christ has no rivals, no substitute, and no helpers.

Hebrews 1:1-3 ¹ *God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,* ² *Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;* ³ *Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.*