

ECHOES OF THE REFORMATION: Five Truths that Shape the Christian Life  
Session 5: CHRIST ALONE

**INTRODUCTION:**

The five “solas” of the Protestant Reformation are: *Scripture Alone, Faith Alone, Grace Alone,* and *Christ Alone*, all to the *Glory of God Alone*. All of these core truths find their meaning in Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

Sola Christo (or solus Christus – by Christ alone) tells us we are saved through the person and work of Christ alone; not Christ plus the sacraments or Christ plus good works, but by Christ alone. Christianity is not ultimately about following a book, it’s about following a person...Jesus Christ.

Scripture is all about Jesus. After His resurrection, Jesus walked to Emmaus with two of His disciples...*“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.” (Luke 24:27)*

The centrality and supremacy of Jesus Christ is the foundation of the Protestant faith. Martin Luther said that Jesus Christ is the “center and circumference of the Bible.” Reformer Ulrich Zwingli said, “Christ is the Head of all believers who are His body and without Him the body is dead.” Jesus Christ is easily the most dominant figure in human history.

**Hebrews 1:3:** *He [Jesus] 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.*

“God put an image in our galaxy to demonstrate what Christ is to us. We call it the sun. Without it, no life can exist on planet Earth. We are dependent on the sun for everything. And just as the sun is the center of our solar system, Jesus Christ is the centerpiece of God’s universe, and even our lives.” - Leonard Sweet

**CHRIST ALONE VIDEO NOTES:**

- *In Christ alone means all of Christ—everything taught about Christ in the entire Scriptures—and it means Christ and no one else.*
- *It is to Christ alone that I must be faithful. I must be exclusively devoted to Jesus Christ above all else.*
- *The New Testament model was that Christ is the answer to every question.*
- *It’s the object of the faith that saves us.*
- *Your hope is not in how much faith you can muster up but in the greatness of the Savior*

- *Christianity alone explains what our problem is and why we need a Savior and how God in His mercy provided all that is necessary for us in Christ.*
- *All that was necessary for our salvation was accomplished by Christ.*

## **CHRIST ALONE:**

**Matthew 16:13-18 (ESV):** *Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.*

Who do you say Jesus is?

God the Father revealed to Peter that Jesus is “the Christ (“Messiah” or “Anointed One”), Son of the living God.” It is helpful to think about Christ as a Prophet, Priest, and King...

## **CHRIST: PROPHET, PRIEST, AND KING**

**PROPHET:** Moses declared in **Deuteronomy 18:15**, “*The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen.*” God confirms Jesus as this prophet. He is God’s Son, and God demands that we listen to Him. (**Matthew 17:5**)

As the Prophet, Jesus is the only One who can reveal what God has been planning in history “since the world began” and who can teach and make manifest the real meaning of the “scriptures of the prophets” in the Old Testament.

**PRIEST:** Salvation is only in Jesus Christ because there are two conditions that, no matter how hard we try, we can never meet. Yet, these conditions must be met if we are to be saved. The first condition is to satisfy the justice of God through obedience to the law. The second condition is to pay the price of our sins. We cannot do either, but Christ did both perfectly. (**Rom. 5:10,19**)

Jesus’ sacrifice took place once only, but He still continues as our great High Priest, the One through whom all acceptable prayer and praise are made to God. In heavenly places, Jesus remains our constant Intercessor and Advocate. (**Rom. 8:34; 1 John 2:1**)

**KING:** Over His church He reigns by means of His Holy Spirit (**Acts 2:30-33**). He sovereignly gives repentance to the impenitent and gives forgiveness to the guilty (**Acts 5:31**). When Jesus returns to Earth one day, He will come as King...

**Rev. 19:16:** *On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.*

Jesus is your Prophet to teach you; He is your Priest to sacrifice for, intercede for, and bless you; and He is your King to rule and guide you.

### **THE SUPREMACY OF CHRIST:**

Jesus Christ — the Son of God — is supreme over all. He is the sovereign Lord of all creation, and He is the sovereign Lord of our hearts. We are His people, bought not with the blood of animals but with His very own blood. (**Heb. 9:12-14**)

Just as there is one God and Father who is over all and through all and in all (**Eph. 4:6**), there is one Son to whom all authority has been given. (**Matt. 28:18**)

The author of Hebrews writes, “*Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control.*” (**Heb. 2:8b**)

The Apostle Paul’s letter to the church in Colossae was written to show the superiority of Christ over all human philosophies, traditions, personalities, and accomplishments.

**Col. 1:16-17:** *For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

Paul tells us the entire universe was created by Christ, through Christ, and for Christ. In addition, all things are held together by Christ and will one day be summed up in Christ.

### **JESUS: THE PERFECT MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND MAN**

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

Consider these ways in which Jesus alone qualifies as our exclusive Savior:

1. Christ alone was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:26).
2. Christ alone is God incarnate (John 1:1; Hebrews 1:1; Philippians 2:5; 1 Timothy 2:5).
3. Christ alone lived a sinless life (2 Corinthians 2:21; Hebrews 4:15; Hebrews 7:23; Hebrews 9:13; 1 Peter 2:21).
4. Christ alone died a penal, substitutionary death (Isaiah 53:4; Romans 3:21; 2 Corinthians 2:21; Galatians 3:10).
5. Christ alone rose from the dead triumphant over sin, death and hell (Acts 2:22; Romans

4:25; 1 Corinthians 15:3, 1 Corinthians 15:16-22).

Christ alone qualifies as Savior, and Christ alone is Savior.

### **UNION WITH CHRIST:**

**Gal. 2:20:** *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

Being united with Christ, we are commanded to walk in Christ. (**Col. 2:6-15**)

**Eph. 1:3:** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,...*

What are these blessings Paul is referring to?

Paul went on the list several, saying “in Him” we get all these things:

- We were chosen before the foundation of the world (1:4)
- We are holy and blameless (1:4)
- We were predestined to be adopted as sons (1:5)
- We have grace poured out upon us (1:6,8)
- We have redemption and forgiveness through His blood (1:7)
- We know the mystery of God’s will to redeem all things (1:9)
- We have an eternal inheritance of salvation (1:11)
- We have the ability to bring praise to God’s glory (1:12)
- We heard the gospel (1:13)
- We were sealed by the Holy Spirit, never to lose our salvation (1:13-14)

We have everything we need in Christ alone.

### **THE EXCLUSIVITY OF CHRIST:**

Jesus said, “*I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me.*” (**John 14:6**)

*This truth is so offensive because it’s out of harmony with the postmodern notion of “tolerance.” But it is, after all, just what the Bible plainly teaches. And the Bible, not postmodern opinion, is the supreme authority for the Christian. The Bible alone should determine what we believe and proclaim to the world. We cannot waver on this, no matter*

*how much this postmodern world complains that our beliefs make us “intolerant.” - John MacArthur*

*“It’s no more narrow to claim that one religion is right than to claim that your way to think about all religions is right.” - Tim Keller*

## **WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE SAY ABOUT CHRIST ALONE?**

The apostle Peter proclaimed to a hostile audience, *“there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)*

John said, *“And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.” (1 John 5:11-12)*

### **JESUS SAID ABOUT HIMSELF:**

*“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.” (John 3:36)*

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)*

*Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12)*

*Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” (John 8:58)*

*“All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:27-28)*

### **THE FATHER SAID OF JESUS:**

*“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” (Matt. 3:17)*

*“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” (Matt. 17:5)*

### **THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALS CHRIST:**

*Jesus said, “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. (John 15:26)*

*Jesus said, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you. (John 16:13-15)*

The Father, the Holy Spirit, the angels, the Scriptures, and all of creation points to Jesus Christ.

### **APOSTLE PAUL AND CHRIST ALONE:**

*Paul said, "I resolved to know nothing [while I was with] you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." (1 Corinthians 2:2)*

Paul's only purpose and sole ambition was to preach Christ alone as the Savior who suffered and died for sinners.

*Col. 1:28-29: Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.*

*Acts 20:24: I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.*

### **JESUS CHRIST HAS ALL AUTHORITY:**

*Matthew 28:18-20: And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

Jesus, as the "head" (**Eph. 4:15**) of the church and the supreme authority, says the mission of the church is to "make disciples." Discipleship is not about following a program...it's about following Jesus Christ.

Following Christ isn't possible simply by trying hard; it's made possible by the beautiful mystery Paul reveals to us in Colossians....Christ is in us! Christ is our power!

*Col. 3:3-4: For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory...*

*Col. 3:12-17: Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*

*And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him...*

**Col. 3:23-24:** *...knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.*

**1 Cor. 15:57:** *But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

## **50 NAMES AND TITLES OF JESUS:**

**1. Almighty One** – *“...who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” Rev. 1:8*

**2. Alpha and Omega** – *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.” Rev. 22:13*

**3. Advocate** – *“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.” 1 John 2:1*

**4. Author and Perfecter of Our Faith** – *“Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Heb. 12:2*

**5. Authority** – *“Jesus said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.’” Matt. 28:18*

**6. Bread of Life** – *“Then Jesus declared, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’” John 6:35*

**7. Beloved Son of God** – *“And behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” Matt. 3:17*

**8. Bridegroom** – *“And Jesus said to them, “Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.” Matt. 9:15*

**9. Chief Cornerstone** – *“The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner stone.” Ps. 118:22*

**10. Deliverer** – *“And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.” 1 Thess.1:10*

**11. Faithful and True** – *“I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war.” Rev.19:11*

**12. Good Shepherd** - *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." John 10:11*

**13. Great High Priest** - *"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession." Heb. 4:14*

**14. Head of the Church** - *"And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church." Eph. 1:22*

**15. Holy Servant** - *"...and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus." Acts 4:29-30*

**16. I Am** - *"Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." John 8:58*

**17. Immanuel** - *"...She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel, which means 'God with us.'" Is. 7:14*

**18. Indescribable Gift** - *"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift." 2 Cor. 9:15*

**19. Judge** - *"...he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead." Acts 10:42*

**20. King of Kings** - *"These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful." Rev. 17:14*

**21. Lamb of God** - *"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29*

**22. Light of the World** - *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12*

**23. Lion of the Tribe of Judah** - *"Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals." Rev. 5:5*

**24. Lord of All** - *"For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Phil. 2:9-11*

**25. Mediator** - *"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." 1 Tim. 2:5*

**26. Messiah** - *"We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ)." John 1:41*

**27. Mighty One** – *“Then you will know that I, the Lord, am your Savior, your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.” Is. 60:16*

**28. One Who Sets Free** – *“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” John 8:36*

**29. Our Hope** – *“...Christ Jesus our hope.” 1 Tim. 1:1*

**30. Peace** – *“For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,” Eph. 2:14*

**31. Prophet** – *“And Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.” Mark 6:4*

**32. Redeemer** – *“And as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth.” Job 19:25*

**33. Risen Lord** – *“...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.” 1 Cor. 15:3-4*

**34. Rock** – *“For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.” 1 Cor. 10:4*

**35. Sacrifice for Our Sins** – *“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” 1 John 4:10*

**36. Savior** – *“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11*

**37. Son of Man** – *“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” Luke 19:10*

**38. Son of the Most High** – *“He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David.” Luke 1:32*

**39. Supreme Creator Over All** – *“By Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together....” 1 Cor. 1:16-17*

**40. Resurrection and the Life** – *“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.” John 11:25*

**41. The Door** – *“I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.” John 10:9*

**42. The Way** – *“Jesus answered, **“I am the way and the truth and the life.** No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6*

**43. The Word** – *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1*

**44. True Vine** - *“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.” John 15:1*

**45. Truth** – *“And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:32*

**46. Victorious One** – *“To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.” Rev. 3:21*

**47. – 50. Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace** – *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Is. 9:6*

**"In Christ Alone"**

[Keith Getty and Stuart Townend]

In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,  
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All,  
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! who took on flesh  
Fulness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones he came to save:  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied -  
For every sin on Him was laid;  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain:  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave he rose again!  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,

For I am His and He is mine -  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath.

Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
Till He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.