

Getting Started

- Discuss the truth of this statement in our day ...

We urgently need to hear “Christ alone” in our day of pluralistic theology. Many people today question the belief that salvation is only by faith in Christ. H. R. Niebuhr famously said of liberalism—“Today many proclaim and worship a God without wrath who brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross.”

Christ alone isn't a slogan; it's the center of the *solas* by which the Reformers recovered the grace of God and declared the glory of God. Christ alone integrates the purposes and plans of God as He has revealed them in Scripture and as we represent them in theology.

The Word spoken by God, the faith given by God, the grace extended by God, and the glory promised by God cannot make sense apart from the Son of God.

- Start your group time by reading through the hymn, *In Christ Alone*. Read one stanza and then stop and pray as a group praising and thanking God for the person, life, work, death, atonement, salvation provided through Jesus Christ. Then continue with the next stanza. When you are finished take a few minutes to summarize what you heard highlighted in the prayers focused on the all-sufficiency of Jesus Christ.

In Christ Alone

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 striving cease
My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand

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

I find my strength, I find my hope, I find my help in Christ alone
When fear assails, when darkness falls, I find my peace in Christ alone
I give my life, I give my all, I sing this song to Christ alone
The King of Kings, the Lord of all, All heaven sings to Christ alone

Discussion

Without Christ, we can do nothing; in Him, we can do all things ([John 15:5](#); [Phil. 4:13](#)). Christ alone can bring salvation. Paul makes plain in Romans 1–2 that though there is a self-manifestation of God outside of His saving work in Christ, no amount of natural theology can unite God and man. Union with Christ is the only way of salvation.

- Summarize the main point(s) that Pastor John made in this week's message:
- Read Romans 3:21-26 and review/discuss the terms that Pastor John highlighted and their significance related to being saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in person and work of Christ alone.

²¹ But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— ²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

- now:
 - righteousness of God:
 - apart from the Law:
 - the Law and Prophets testify:
 - justified:
 - grace:
 - redemption:
 - sacrifice of atonement (propitiation):
 - shedding of his blood:
 - he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished:
 - at the present time:
 - just:
 - the one who justifies:
- Jesus Christ alone fulfilled three Old Testament offices: prophet, priest and king. Based on these brief descriptions of each office, discuss how Jesus alone is able to satisfy your every need.

Christ is the Prophet whom we need to instruct us in the things of God so as to heal our blindness and ignorance. (Deut 18:15, Matt 17:5) We can expect to make progress in the Christian life only as we heed His instruction and teaching.

Christ is the Priest—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, He remains our constant Intercessor and Advocate (Rom. 8:34; 1 John 2:1). We can grow in our enjoyment of access to God only by a deepening reliance on Him as our Sacrifice and Intercessor.

Christ is the King, ruling over all things. Over His church He reigns by means of His Holy Spirit (Acts 2:30–33).

If you are a child of God, Christ in His threefold office as Prophet, Priest, and King will mean everything to you. Do you love *solus Christus*? Do you love Him in His person, offices, natures, and benefits? Is He your Prophet to teach you; your Priest to sacrifice for, intercede for, and bless you; and your King to rule and guide you?

Prayer

Close your time praying through Colossians 1:15-20, Hebrews 1:1-4, Philippians 2:5-11 exalting the Lord Jesus Christ!