



Solus Christus - Colossians 1:13-22

History

1. In the few hundred years leading up to 1500 AD the Church was at the center of people's lives in Western Europe, and the church had gone from what, professor Harold OJ Brown, called the "Company of the Saved" to the "Salvation Company".
2. In a nutshell, Jesus' life death and resurrection was enough to give you some grace, some salvation. But an individual had to keep going back to the church and filling up on more grace through their seven sacraments to actually arrive at salvation before death.
3. Michael Reeves - "The Roman Catholic teaching on Totus Christus is very simple: As the body of Christ, the Church is in some sense the continuing incarnation of the Son. The sacraments, as they grew to seven and were cemented in Church teaching in the 13th – 16th centuries, were said to be the seven arteries of the Body of Christ, through which the lifeblood of God's grace was pumped. So, you have the Church as the body of Christ, understood as continuing the incarnation, and the sacraments are the arteries through which God's grace flowed. So, the great question who has authority to turn on the taps of grace, as it were? The answer? The priests of the church."
4. Dr. Blair Smith - "'The sacrifice of the Mass is properly offered not only for the sins, penalties, satisfactions, and other needs of the faithful who are living but also for the departed in Christ who are not yet fully cleansed.' In sum, the cross of Christ does not justify full stop, but merely opens justification, makes it possible, and hence the Mass is continually offered as a work of the Church in order to obtain remission of sins for the living and the dead, to make it possible to store up merits for eternal life."
5. Martin Luther, John Calvin, other "Reformers" searched the Scriptures where God revealed that salvation is found in Solus Christus, in Christ Alone. The issue on the table is Christ's Sufficiency

The Darkness of our Plight

1. Colossians 1:13-14 - *"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."*
 - This domain of darkness is the sphere in which Satan exercises his jurisdiction (Matt. 4:8-11; Luke 22:52-53; Acts 26:18).
 - We were *"following the prince of the power of the air"* and were *"sons of disobedience"* and *"children of wrath"* (Eph. 1:1-3)
 - Col. 1:21 - *"you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds"*
 - Romans 8:7 - For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.
 - Col. 3:5 – idolatry
2. Martin Luther - "God has assuredly promised his grace to the humble, that is, to those who lament and despair of themselves. But no man can be thoroughly humbled until he knows that his salvation is utterly beyond his own powers, devices, endeavors, will and works, and depends entirely on the choice, will, and work of another, namely of God alone. For as long as he is persuaded that he himself can do even the least thing toward his salvation, he retains some self-confidence and does not altogether despair of himself, and therefore he is not humbled before God, but presumes that there is—or at least hopes or desires that there may be—some place, time, and work for him, by which he may at length attain to salvation. But when a man has no doubt that everything depends on the will of God, then he completely despairs of himself and chooses nothing for himself, but waits for God to work; then he has come close to grace."

- A healthy despair in self leads to hope in Christ alone.

The Supremacy and Sufficiency of Christ in Creation

1. *"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation"* (vs 15).
 - Jesus is Yahweh, God Himself
 - *"For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell..."* (vs. 19)
 - *"In Him all the fulness of deity dwells in bodily form."* (Col. 2:9)
 - *"although he existed in the form of God"* – (Phil. 2:6 – in essence)
 - *"the radiance of God's glory and the exact imprint of His nature"* (Heb. 1:3)
 - *"And he is before all things..."* (vs. 17)
 - John 1:1; 8:58; 17:5; II Cor 8-9; Phil 2:6; Rev. 22:13
2. *"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 by Him and form him."* (vs. 16)
 - Abraham Kuiper - "There is not one square inch of all of creation in which God does not declare over it, 'This is mine.'"
 - Adam and Eve were to reflect God, being made in His image (Gen. 1:26-28)
 - *"The heavens declare the glory of God..."* (Ps. 19:1ff)
 - God's divine nature and power are seen in His creation. (Rom. 1:19-20)
3. *"He holds all things together."* (vs. 17)
 - *"He upholds the universe by the word of His power."* (Heb. 1:3)

The Supremacy and Sufficiency of Christ in Redemption

1. *"...transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."* (vs. 14)
 - We are not transplanted into Jesus' kingdom in/by the Church
 - *"He is the head of the body, the Church"* (vs. 18)
 - Ekklesia – "Called out ones" – Hosea 11:1
 - Israel were called out and delivered from slavery in Egypt as a foreshadowing of Christ delivering His people from the slavery of sin. (Rom. 6:15-23)
 - J.I. Packer - "The index of the soundness of a man's faith in Christ is the genuineness of the self-despair from which it springs. Don't just admit your condition is desperately ruinous. Let yourself feel it. Ponder, unhurriedly, how vile, left to yourself, you are."
2. *"and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross."* (vs. 20)
 - All things, even creation, are reconciled to Jesus through the blood of the cross.
 - *"For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now."* (Rom. 8:22)
 - *"The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat... and a little child shall lead them... and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra... They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain..."*. (Is. 11:9-11)
 - *"And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death."* (vs. 22)
 - You are reconciled to Jesus through His death on the cross (Rom. 5:10ff)
3. *"in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him..."* (vs. 22)
 - Christ's righteousness is credited to us. We will be clothed in it (white) on the day he returns to marry His Church (His Bride)
4. What we bring to the table is all of our sin, rebellion, and evil deeds...our hearts.
5. Where do we find our deliverance, redemption, reconciliation, righteousness? Solus Christus. In Christ Alone