

Theme: The exclusivity and sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice is the only ground for our righteousness.

## Intro - Good Idea, Bad Idea feeding a stray kitten in the park (to a bear)

- A. Small distinctions may have big consequences
- B. Indulgences: Luther's grievance
- C. Unless the ground of our justification is Christ's work alone, we have no hope of pleasing GOD

### I. Guilt, Atonement and Reconciliation

- A. Our problem is no less than one of continual criminal guilt

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God  
(Rom 3:23)

- 1. We are condemned by our own actions
- 2. "Have sinned" - aorist active
- 3. "Fall" - Present Middle

"For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge."  
(Psalms 51:3-4 NIV)

- 4. Every wrong done against another person is a crime against God
- 5. God's judgment against us is Just.

- B. The result of our sin is guiltiness under God and alienation from God.  
Our need is blood sacrifice and mediator

- 6. Adam  
Shame, clothed, exiled, promised seed

- 7. Moses  
passover lamb, Priesthood

- 8. David  
Death of son, "Don't cast away! Don't removed your Holy Spirit!"

- 9. The medieval church agreed with this

- C. Why Solus Christus?

- 1. Medieval church: "Christ is necessary but not sufficient"
  - a. "The merits of Christ + the Merits of Mary + my merits = justification

## 2. The Reformers Reply: "Sola Scriptura!"

- a. The Devis is in the details - small distinctions have major consequences
  1. Christ's atonement is sufficient and exclusive
  2. Only Christ's atoning sacrifice can make the sinner righteous
- b. The blood of Christ atoned for our guilt  
and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood.  
(Romans 6:24 - 25a)
  1. Hebrews 9:22 "Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins."
  2. Adam - clothed
  3. Moses - mercy seat
- c. Christ's atoning death is necessary for the removal of our guilt  
"because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins."  
(Hebrews 10:4)
- d. Jesus' sacrifice is sufficient for salvation  
"but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them."  
(Hebrews 7:24-25 NIV)
- e. Why? Because Jesus alone was perfect and the perfect sacrifice  
"Such a high priest meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself."  
(Hebrews 7:26-27 NIV)
- f. Christ is the necessary mediator  
"For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant."  
(Hebrews 9:15 NIV)
- g. Christ is the exclusive mediator  
"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,"  
(1 Timothy 2:5 NIV)  
  
"A mediator, however, does not represent just one party; but God is one."  
(Galatians 3:20 NIV)
- h. Christ is the sufficient reconciler  
"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."  
(2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV)
- i. Christ is the exclusive reconciler  
"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."  
(Acts 4:12 NIV)

## 3. Reformation implications: Jesus + anything = "NOT JUSTIFIED!"

- a. Christ is the only means for the sinner to be made righteous

1. We are not justified by the Church
  2. We are not justified through penance
  3. We are not justified by the merits of Mary, or any of the saints,  
But by the merits of CHRIST ALONE!
- b. We have an internal problem  
And are in need of an external solution

“Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?

All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.” Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.””

(Galatians 3:3, 10, 13 NIV)

- c. “Flick the ear of the person next to you”  
My half-hearted “bad” is more effective than your most ardent “good”
- d. Who else was perfect?  
Who else could pay our debt sufficiently?  
Who else validated His claim by rising from the dead?

#### D. Understanding solus Christus

1. God in His holiness demands either perfect holiness or a perfect sacrifice for the guilty.
2. God in His kindness and mercy provided the perfect sacrifice for our guilt
3. Through Christ’s perfect sacrifice the sinners guilt is atoned for
4. Through Christ’s perfect mediation the sinner has been reconciled to God
5. Solus Christus means that Christ is the ONLY and the COMPLETELY SUFFICIENT way for one to be justified before God

## II. The Need For Solus Christus Today

### A. It is significantly worse today than it was 500 years ago

1. Jesus is not necessary
2. People are basically good
3. God wants me to be happy
4. Jesus is not the only or even the best way to God
5. Lifeway/Ligonier poll in 2014
  - a. Even the smallest sin deserves damnation  
75% disagreed; 59% strongly
  - b. There are many ways to get to heaven  
44% agreed
  - c. Salvation is found through Jesus Christ alone  
35% agreed strongly; 18% somewhat

- d. Everyone sins at least a little, but most people are by nature good  
67% agreed

## B. The current state of American Evangelical beliefs

- 6. We live as if Jesus's sacrifice is not sufficient
  - a. Forgiveness (Matthew 18:21 - 35)
  - b. Love (Luke 7:40 - 47)
- 7. We evangelize as if Jesus is not necessary
- 8. We repent as if our sin is a minor issue, a gentleman's agreement
- 9. We believe, preach & live as if our problem is external & the solution is internal, but our problem is internal and the solution is external

## III. Applying the Word

### C. The Table of Christ Alone

- 1. Table of Remembrance
- 2. How great is our sin
- 3. How great is Christ's sacrifice
- 4. How great is the cost of our justification and reconciliation
- 5. How great is our joy at having been brought near through Christ's blood

### Solus Christus - Saved By Christ Alone

Romans 3:23 - 26

October 15, 2017

Communion

John 8:44,46, Luke 7:49

Teaching keywords: justification salvation christ redemption reconciliation reformation sin guilt sacrifice

"I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."  
(John 8:34 - 36 NIV)

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus."

(Romans 3:23–26 NIV)