

“*SOLUS CHRISTUS*”

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12 NKJV)

What were the issues five hundred years ago which made *solus Christus* (only by Christ) an important distinction of Protestantism?

There was the importance given to Mary. With the argument, "What son would refuse the request of his mother?" Mary became the mediatrix of those who prayed to God. They came to her with their prayers. In praying the rosary, for every "Our Father" there are ten "Hail Marys."

The saints became both objects of veneration and persons to whom prayers were made. The doctrine of supererogation held that the good works of the saints which were more than was needed for their own salvation could be used to obtain favor for people on earth who prayed to them.

The church itself became a mediator between God and man. Those who repented of their sins and sought forgiveness had to go to the priest and ask for the sacrament of confession. Jesus instituted two sacraments. The church had a total of seven sacraments

Christ alone is our Savior, our Friend, our Priest. Any believer in Christ can go to God directly, praying in Jesus name. Our access to God's throne of grace dates to the death of Jesus when the veil of the Temple was torn from top to bottom.

Karl Barth is a famous Reformed theologian whose writings are profound. When he was an old man, he toured the United States giving lectures. At Princeton Seminary, a student asked him what he considered the most difficult question in theology. With a cracked voice he sang, "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

1.) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. (John 1:1-4 NKJV)

Of all the beings that have lived on the earth, only one lived before the world began and will live when time and earth are no more. Christ was in the beginning with God because He was, is, and ever shall be God. He is our Creator. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. While He was living here on earth, where His known existence began as a baby born in Bethlehem, He said of Himself Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." (John 8:58) He prayed to the Father at the Last Supper

"Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. (John 17:24 NKJV)

Christ alone can intercede for us. I attended a Catholic school for a semester. The nuns taught us to pray to Mary because what son would refuse his mother's requests and they said "When the Father shuts the door, Mary opens the window." In the Gospels we are told that when Mary came to a place where Jesus was

Then one said to Him, "Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You." But He answered and said to the one who told Him, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?" And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother." (Matthew 12:47-50 NKJV) For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, (1 Timothy 2:5 NKJV)

Earthly kingdoms come and go. Look at a map from a hundred years ago and compare it with a current map. Dozens of countries are gone. New countries have appeared. Donald Trump, Vladimir Putin, Kim Jong Un, the rulers of China, India, Iran seem to have great power, but they cannot open a can of beans without getting Jesus' permission. Jesus Christ is King of kings. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom.

2.) "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12 NKJV)

There is no other way of salvation except through Christ alone is based on the declaration of God Himself that He is the only God.

"Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God. (Isaiah 44:6 NKJV)

"Assemble yourselves and come; Draw near together, You who have escaped from the nations. They have no knowledge, Who carry the wood of their carved image, And pray to a god that cannot save. Tell and bring forth your case; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me. "Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. (Isaiah 45:20-22 NKJV)

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16 NKJV) God the Father sent His own Son to suffer and die upon the cross to pay the penalty we deserved for our sins. His only begotten Son cried out, And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Matthew 27:46)

If someone who does not believe in Jesus seeks salvation by calling upon the name of some god who only exists in the sinful imagination of a group of unbelievers, will the true God, hear their cry, despise the death of His Son and save them? He will not hear their cry.

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In every false religion man has to earn salvation by good works.

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:6-8 NKJV)

We send missionaries to those who don't know the Gospel because

"Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, "because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead." (Acts 17:30-31 NKJV)

3.) I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13 NKJV)
Ulrich Zwingli was the Swiss Reformer in the German speaking region. He said, "Christ is the Head of all believers who are His body and without Him the body is dead." B.B. Warfield, the great Presbyterian theologian said, "The saving power of faith resides not in itself, but in the Almighty Savior on whom it rests." Jesus said of Himself:

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." (John 15:5 NKJV)

Jesus is our only Prophet. Before the coming of Christ, God spoke to His people at different times through various prophets. But now God speaks only and perfectly through Christ. In almost every generation there have people who rose up and claimed to be prophets sent by God. Joseph Smith claimed that he received revelations from God which he recorded in *The Book of Mormon*, *The Pearl of Great Price*, and other writings. Since then whoever is President of the Mormon Church is also its Prophet. The Catholic Church believes that when the Pope speaks *ex cathedra* it is a revelation from God. Jesus is our only Prophet.

Jesus is our only Priest. He not only is the sacrifice for our sins, He is our great High Priest who offered that sacrifice for us in heaven.

For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. (Hebrews 7:26-27 NKJV)

Jesus is our only King. John Calvin said, "We may patiently pass through this life with its misery, cold, contempt, reproaches, and other troubles – content with this one thing: that our King will never leave us destitute, but will provide for our needs until, our warfare ended, we are called to triumph."

And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. (Ephesians 1:20-23 NKJV)