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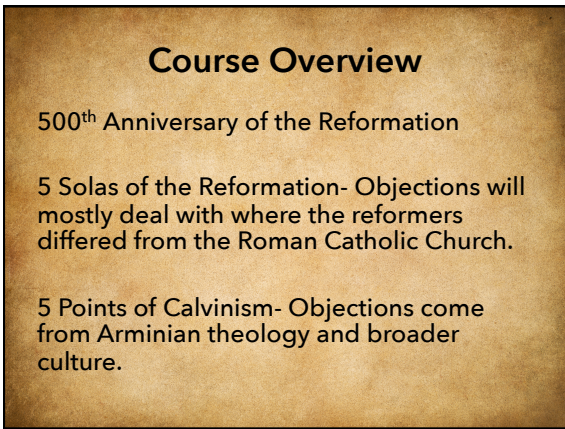
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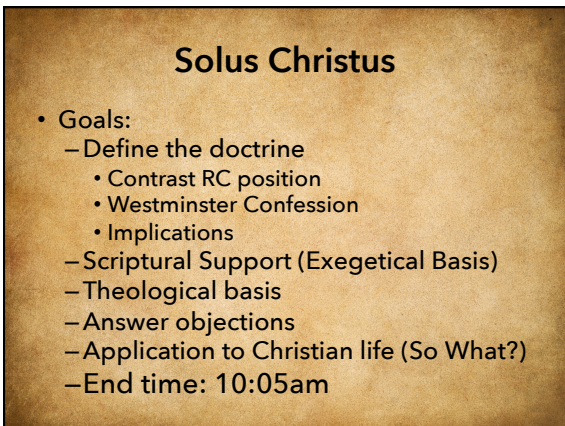
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## Solus Christus Defined

### Background:

- Last week we discussed Scripture as the final and infallible source of ultimate authority in the Christian life.
- Today we turn to the principle subject and central figure of all of Scripture- Jesus Christ.

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Definition: Jesus Christ is the only savior of sinners and his atoning sacrifice is sufficient to save them.

1. Jesus is the Savior of sinners
2. Jesus is the sole Savior of sinners
3. Jesus is the sacrificial Savior of sinners.
4. Jesus is the sufficient Savior of sinners  
(4 S's: Savior, Sole, Sacrificial, Sufficient)

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### Roman Catholic View

- Atoning work of Christ significant, even central, but not "the whole deal", doesn't secure our salvation from start to finish.
- Work of Christ needs to be "supplemented"
- Christ's work merited the grace of justification, to be received in the sacrament of baptism (washing away original sin)

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**Roman Catholic View**

- When "mortal sins" are committed in life, we loose that state of grace.
- This is to be recovered through confessions and penance (good works, self punishment).
- After we die we don't go straight to heaven, we must be purified in purgatory. These sufferings are a form of punishment for the remission of sins.

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**Roman Catholic View**  
 Summary: A person's final salvation depends not only on the good works and sufferings of Christ but on that person's own good works and sufferings working in cooperation with those of Christ.

In Contrast the Reformers insisted we are saved by the work of Christ alone.

Continued significance: RC official doctrine has not changed and we deal with religious pluralism.

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Solus Christus in the Westminster Confession  
**"The Lord Jesus, by his perfect obedience, and sacrifice of himself, which he, through the eternal Spirit, once offered up unto God, hath fully satisfied the justice of his Father; and purchased, not only reconciliation, but an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, for all those whom the Father hath given unto him." (8.5)**

**Fully satisfied- nothing to be added.**

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Solus Christus in the Westminster Confession  
 "Although the work of redemption was not actually wrought by Christ till after his incarnation, yet the virtue, efficacy, and benefits thereof were communicated unto the elect, in all ages successively from the beginning of the world, in and by those promises, types and sacrifices, wherein he was revealed, and signified to be the seed of the woman which should bruise the serpent's head; and the Lamb slain from the beginning of the world; being yesterday and today the same, and forever." (8.6)

OT saints saved by Christ just as NT saints.  
 Always, only Christ.

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Solus Christus in the Westminster Confession  
 "To all those for whom Christ hath purchased redemption, he doth certainly and effectually apply and communicate the same;...(8.8)

When Christ purchases redemption for you, that is sufficient for your salvation. You will most surely be saved.

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Solus Christus in the Westminster Confession  
 "By this faith, a Christian believeth to be true whatsoever is revealed in the Word, for the authority of God himself speaking therein... But the principal acts of saving faith are accepting, receiving, and resting upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace." (14.2)

The Christian rests on Christ alone for all aspects of salvation.

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Solus Christus in the Westminster Confession

“Religious worship is to be given to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; and to him alone; not to angels, saints, or any other creature: and since the fall, not without a Mediator; nor in the mediation of any other but of Christ alone.” (21.2)

Sinners cannot approach God without a mediator and Christ is the only mediator given.

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Solus Christus in the Westminster Confession

It is also key to note what the Westminster Confession doesn't say in relation to our salvation:

- No mention of another redeemer or mediator.
- No mention of the church supplementing the work of Christ.
- No mention of our own works, good deeds, etc. making a meritorious contribution.

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**Implications**

1. Faith in any other “savior” than Jesus Christ is worthless.
2. Non-Christian religions are false religions that lead no one to salvation.
3. Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and sinners.
4. We must put no confidence in any efforts to save ourselves.

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### Implications

- 5. There is no alternative to the saving work of Christ.
- 6. There is no need for anyone to supplement the saving work of Christ.
- 7. It is greatly dishonoring to Christ to attempt to supplement his saving work.
- 8. The saving work of Christ is complete, effectual, and cannot be nullified.

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### Scriptural Support

John 3- Summary of chapter: Christ is the only Savior of the world.

v. 16,18- For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ... Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

No middle ground here.

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John 3:35-36

The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. 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.

Only 2 options:

- Believe and have eternal life
- Don't believe and have condemnation/ wrath

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John 14:5-6  
 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.  
 Not "a" way, but "the" way.

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John 17- Jesus' High Priestly Prayer  
 Jesus is functioning as a mediator between God and sinners.  
 We see his deity and uniqueness here:  
 v.5 And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.  
 Isaiah 42:8 I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.

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Acts 4:11-12  
 This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

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Romans 10:9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. <sup>11</sup> For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. <sup>13</sup> For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Here we see the sufficiency of Christ- all who call on the name of Jesus for salvation will be saved.

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<sup>14</sup> How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? <sup>15</sup> And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" Here we see the necessity of Christ- only those who call on the name of Christ will be saved.

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Hebrews 7:25  
 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.  
  
 If he saves to the uttermost we need not add to it. Perfect sacrifice  
 He makes intercession as a perfect/ effectual mediator.

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### Summary Argument/Theological basis

- We are fallen in sin and therefore under God's wrath and judgement.
  - Therefore, we need atonement to be made for us.
- We cannot make a sufficient atonement for our own sins, because we are fallen in sin.
  - Therefore, we need a mediator to make a sufficient atonement for our sins on our behalf.

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### Summary Argument/Theological basis

- The mediator between God and us:
  - Cannot be less than divine.
  - Cannot be less than human.
  - Therefore, the mediator between God and us must be both divine and human.
- Jesus Christ alone is both divine and human.
  - Therefore, only Jesus Christ can be the mediator between God and us.
  - Therefore, only Jesus Christ can make sufficient atonement for our sins.

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### Objections

1. "How could God condemn those who have never heard of Jesus?"
2. "I refuse to worship a God that would send people to Hell. To me God is..."
3. "Jesus taught that his Father is a God of love, not a God of wrath."
4. "God is not a cosmic child abuser."

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### Application

1. Solus Christus drives us to exalt Christ (and Christ alone) in our worship.
2. Solus Christus drives us to keep Christ and his cross central in our evangelism.
3. Solus Christus means that we can have full assurance of forgiveness in Christ.
4. Solus Christus means that we can have full assurance of perseverance in Christ.

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### Application

5. *Solus Christus means that we can have full assurance of God's love for us in Christ.*
6. *Solus Christus makes clear how serious our sin is in God's eyes.*
7. *Solus Christus makes clear how important justice is in God's eyes.*
8. *Solus Christus makes clear how utterly unable we are to save ourselves.*

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### Application

9. *Solus Christus makes clear how far God was prepared to go to save us.*
10. *Solus Christus guards against both legalism and license in the Christian life.*

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