

## **Solus Christus**

### **Acts 4:5-12 (NIV)**

Hey Newsong!

I want to take a moment and welcome our first time guests and those worshiping with us online!

We're in week two of our sermon series called "Sola". For those of you that missed week one let me set the stage...

On October 31st 1517 a German monk named Martin Luther walked up to the church in Wittenberg, and nailed his 95 theses on the church door.

It was the beginning of what became known as the Protestant Reformation...

Why? What was the big deal?

When we go back to the early church, we see that it was a church centered on Jesus and standing upon the Word of God...

But as time went on, church leaders started adding things...By the time you get to the 1500's the Pope had said that it was possible to buy your salvation...

So the Church starting selling indulgences to free you from some of your sins...That was added

You could not only free yourself...but you could pay to get your family and friends out of purgatory too...That was added

You could take a pilgrimage...and on this pilgrimage you could go and see different artifacts...and once you completed the pilgrimage you could get to heaven faster...

So the Church starting selling indulgences to free you from some of your sins

So people believed that salvation was something that you had to earn...it was something that you could buy...it was on a points system...the more good works...the more points you get...

Martin Luther comes along and says wait a minute...none of this is in God's Word...

There was a spiritual awakening as people rediscovered the Gospel...

*A reformation isn't discovering something new... those are usually called cults.*

*Reformations are Re-formations. They are Rediscoveries-Dr. Mark Batterson*

Out of the Reformation came five Latin phrases...five central truths called Solas...The word sola means "alone"

Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone)  
Solus Christus (Christ Alone)  
Sola Gratia (Grace Alone)  
Sola Fide (Faith Alone)  
Soli Deo Gloria (To the Glory of God Alone)

That's the point of this series...  
We're going back to the basics and  
rediscovering the wonderful Gospel...

Two weeks ago we talked about Sola Scriptura  
that the Bible, and only the Bible, is the  
authoritative Word of God...It has the final say  
on matters of faith and how we live it out!

The Church doesn't have the final say...  
Tradition doesn't have the final say...  
Culture doesn't have the final say...  
I take all of my opinions, all of my experiences,  
all of my traditions and I filter them through the  
lens of Scripture Alone...

Today we're going to open the pages of Holy Scripture, and learn our second Sola...

In Acts 3 Peter & John are going up to the Temple to pray and they encounter a man who was crippled from birth. This man was begging for money...

***6 Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."-Acts 3:6 (NIV)***

They start preaching the Gospel...and the religious leaders have them arrested...

***Acts 4:5-12 (NIV)***

***12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."-Acts 4:12 (NIV)***

Solus Christus...

We trust in Christ alone for our salvation...

**Pray**

Salvation is **AVAILABLE**

***12 Salvation is found...***

Peter is standing before the same people who condemned Jesus to death...and He receives a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit...

With that fresh touch of the Spirit, He boldly proclaims that salvation has been made available to us!

The religious leaders wanted information...They wanted to know by what power they were able to heal the man...

Peter's like...the healing? Oh Jesus did that...and by the way...here's what you really need to know...Hope is here...You know what else Jesus has provided? Salvation...it's available!

The early church was convinced that our greatest need isn't physical, or financial, or social, or cultural, or political...

Our greatest need is to be saved...

I remember back when I was 16 years old, my Uncle Cha would come to visit on a Saturday...

He had a beautiful early 80's Lincoln Continental...he would give my brother and I money to wash and wax it for him...

He would share the gospel with us...

He would say "Mike you need to be saved..." I remember thinking what does that mean?

You may be thinking that same thing...Maybe someone has told you that too...

The word salvation in the Greek is **sōtēría** (**so-tay-ree'-ah**) It has both a negative and a positive component...

### **Negative**

It means to be saved from something...to be delivered, to be rescued, to escape impending danger...In other words perishing doom is coming for you...and you need to be rescued

### **Positive**

But it also means to be saved for something  
To be rescued... preserved... protected  
...restored

From what do we need to be saved?  
Another pandemic? A financial crisis? Global warming? Another Taylor Swift album?

The answer may surprise you...



We need to be saved from the wrath of God...

God not only hates sin...but those who never repent of their sin will one day come under His righteous anger and judgment...

**4 O God, you take no pleasure in wickedness; you cannot tolerate the sins of the wicked. 5 Therefore, the proud may not stand in your presence, for you hate all who do evil. 6 You will destroy those who tell lies. The LORD detests murderers and deceivers.-Psalm 5:4-6 (NLT)**

**11 God is an honest judge. He is angry with the wicked every day. 12 If a person does not repent, God[b] will sharpen his sword; he will bend and string his bow.**

**13 He will prepare his deadly weapons and shoot his flaming arrows.-Psalm 7:11-13 (NLT)**

When Paul was writing to the churches who are being persecuted in Thessalonica he said...

***6 In his justice he will pay back those who persecute you. 7 And God will provide rest for you who are being persecuted and also for us when the Lord Jesus appears from heaven. He will come with his mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don't know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will be punished with eternal destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious power. 10 When he comes on that day, he will receive glory from his holy people—praise from all who believe. And this includes you, for you believed what we told you about him.-2  
Thessalonians 1:6-10 (NLT)***

In Revelation 19 John describes the day of wrath like this...

**11 Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war. 12 His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself. 13 He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God. 14 The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses. 15 From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress. 16 On his robe at his thigh[e] was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords.-Revelation 19:11-16 (NLT)**

God hates sin...And the bad news is we're all deserving of God's wrath because we're all sinners...

***23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.-Romans 3:21 (NLT)***

Our greatest need is to be saved...And Peter's declaring salvation is available to us...

Great, where do we find it? How do we obtain it? Where is salvation found? We can't be wrong here and right anywhere else...

Salvation is **EXCLUSIVE**

***12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."-Acts 4:12 (NIV)***

Now, remember who Peter is speaking to...The religious leaders who refused to believe that Jesus was the Messiah...

He's saying hey...you're looking for the Messiah, but He's already been here and His name is Jesus...if you don't find Him, you don't find salvation! Point. Blank. Period!

Salvation is found in Christ Alone...

It's not found in Christ & good works...

It's not found in Christ & church attendance...

It's not found in Christ & water baptism...

It's not found in Christ & Bible reading...

It's not found in Christ & Tithing...

Anytime someone tells you that you need Jesus + something...you're being told a false gospel...

Jehova Witnesses will tell you need Jesus + good works + the watchtower teachings

Mormons will tell you that you need  
Jesus + good works + the Book of Mormon

**Jesus + ANYTHING = DEAD RELIGION**

It can't save you...

Salvation is found in Solus Christus...Christ  
Alone!

This was upsetting to the Jewish Leaders who  
believed that their good works would help them  
obtain their salvation...

And this is still upsetting in 2024...

What do you mean that Jesus is the only way to  
be saved? That's so exclusive...

Can we say Jesus is "a" way? You can say that  
but you would be wrong...How do you know?  
Because Jesus said so!

**6 Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.-John 14:6 (NLT)**

Jesus isn't one of many ways...  
God has rejected all other ways...

There's no salvation...No redemption...No rescue...No forgiveness...No grace...No mercy without Jesus!

Salvation isn't found in Allah, or Buddha, or the Pope, or Mary or a Priest or a Pastor or some guy who calls himself a prophet...

**5 For, There is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus.-1 Timothy 2:5 (NLT)**

Jesus is the only way...  
And only in Him do we have the hope of being saved!

When asked why you believe you're saved? We don't use first-person pronouns...I did this, then I did this and then I did this...NO! It's He did this...then He this...then He did this...Christ Alone...He saved us!

We can gladly accept it, or we can choose to reject it...but Jesus leaves us with only one way...His way!

You see the Bible is very clear...it's not hard to understand, it's just hard to swallow!

Salvation is available...God has provided it  
Salvation is exclusive...It's only through Jesus

Salvation is **NECESSARY**

***12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."-Acts 4:12 (NIV)***



Peter says we must be saved...it's a necessity...If Jesus doesn't save us we're all still under God's judgment...

But I thought that God loves us...He does!  
That's why He sent His Son Jesus...  
See that's what makes the Gospel good news!

The Bible clearly teaches that God is just...One day He will justly judge sin... and He will demand payment for the penalty of sin...and that penalty is spiritual death...eternity without God

Paul says in Romans 6:23

**23 For the wages of sin is death...** God will deal with all sin...But the Bible also reveals that God loves sinners, He reaches out to us, in compassion and mercy...He wants to redeem us from our sin...And the only way is through the cross of Jesus...

That's why the rest of the verse says...***but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.-Romans 6:23 (NLT)***

God hates sin but loves us and offers His salvation to us...

***16 "For this is how God loved the world: He gave[a] his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.17 God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.-John 3:16-17 (NLT)***

There was no other way...no plan b  
There was no other Savior...Christ Alone

No one else was born of a virgin...

No one else lived a sinless life...

No one else could ever be our substitute...

No one else could take our place...

No one else could pay the debt that we owe...  
No one else could be our Mediator...  
No one else could be our Redeemer...  
No one but Jesus!

***8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.-Romans 5:8 (NLT)***

Again...notice the “we”  
We can’t save ourselves...

Jesus said we must be born-again in order to see the Kingdom of God!

Do you see the necessity?

Do you hear the plea? The cry of the Father’s heart?

Without salvation we will perish...And God doesn’t want anyone to perish...

***9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.-2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)***

We must put our faith in Christ alone  
We must repent and believe in Jesus  
Your spouse needs to be saved...  
Your children need to be saved...  
Your friends need to be saved...  
Your classmates need to be saved...

***7 So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice, 8 do not harden your hearts...-Hebrews 3:7-8a (NIV)***

Paul tells us that Today is the day of your salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2)

It's available to you right now!

***9 If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.***

***10 For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.-Romans 10:9-10 (NLT)***

No one can do that for you...

Here's the thing...you can know all of this...and still go to hell!

You must as an act of your own free will choose to repent...To leave your life of sin and surrender your life to the only One who is able to save you...

You must do this personally...or on the last day, Jesus will say depart from Me, you worker of iniquity, I never knew you...

If you're here today or watching online and you're far away from God, I want you to know that God isn't far away...

He's here right now...If you will turn to Him and seek His forgiveness and confess your sin...He will save you!

He says come to Me all who are weary...  
Come to Me...you will find rest for your soul...  
Come to Me if you're thirsty...He invites you to come to Him...He invites you to tell Him the truth...You are a sinner and you need His forgiveness!

Come! Today is the day of your new life!

**Altar Time**