

Week 3 - Sola Christus

By Christ Alone

Learning Objectives

- Gain a better picture of the roles of Jesus in order that we would be able to worship him more fully.
- Look specifically at Christ, the offices he fulfills, and how it is through Him alone that we have a right relationship with God.

Pray for your time together as a group.

Icebreaker:

? When was the last time you were confident of a particular way of doing something but it didn't work out?

Read Out Loud: Hebrews 2: 5-18 (NIV)

⁵ It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. ⁶ But there is a place where someone has testified:

“What is mankind that you are mindful of them,
a son of man that you care for him?

⁷ You made them a little lower than the angels;
you crowned them with glory and honor

⁸ and put everything under their feet.”

In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. ⁹ But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰ In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. ¹¹ Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. ¹² He says,

“I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the assembly I will sing your praises.”

¹³ And again, “I will put my trust in him.”

And again he says, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.”

¹⁴ Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's

descendants. ¹⁷For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Section 1: Christ Alone As Our Savior (Priest)

? How do you see Jesus as a savior in this passage?

Possible Answers: Verse 9 talks about how Christ “tasted death” so that we could find salvation through his suffering. Jesus invites us to be a part of his family. He was also set apart and made holy as the perfect example of what a human could be in communion with God.

What Made The High Priest So High?

The high priest was the supreme religious leader of the Israelites. The office of the high priest was hereditary and was traced from Aaron, the brother of Moses, of the Levite tribe (Exodus 28:1; Numbers 18:7). The high priest had to be “whole” physically (without any physical defects) and holy in his conduct (Leviticus 21:6-8). The most important duty of the high priest was to conduct the service on the Day of Atonement, the tenth day of the seventh month of every year. Only he was allowed to enter the Most Holy Place behind the veil to stand before God. Having made a sacrifice for himself and for the people, he then brought the blood into the Holy of Holies and sprinkled it on the mercy seat, God’s “throne” (Leviticus 16:14-15). He did this to make atonement for himself and the people for all their sins committed during the year just ended (Exodus 30:10). It is this particular service that is compared to the ministry of Jesus as our High Priest (Hebrews 9:1-28).

Source: <http://www.gotquestions.org/high-priest.html>

? Looking into verses 9-11, what truths about Jesus does this reveal to us that might affect the way we live our daily lives?

Possible Answers: Jesus tasted death for everyone so that all may seek salvation through his suffering. He invites everyone to be a part of his family. Through Christ we are made Holy and are called brothers and sisters by him.

Read Out Loud: Romans 8: 15 (NIV)

¹⁵The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”

? Looking at this verse from Romans, what does it mean to know that you have been adopted through our Savior?

Possible Answers: That I am a part of the Lord's family, I get to call him Father, He has personally chosen me to be in His family, etc. I have a right relationship with God.

Section 2: Christ Alone As Our Guide (Prophet)

? How do you see Jesus as a guide in the Hebrews passage above?

Possible Answers: Heb 2:6 (God cares for man), 2:16 (Jesus helps angels and Abraham), 2:18 (Jesus helps those who are tempted). He speaks for God. By becoming human and being tempted, Jesus is able to lead us and understand our temptation. He displays wisdom, love and guidance during challenges and times of growth daily.

? In the Old Testament, Prophets had several functions. They acted as spokesmen for God and mediated the relationship between humans and the Lord through healing and miracles. How does Jesus fulfill that role?

Possible Answers: Jesus instructs his disciples on how to live a life that glorifies God. The countless healings throughout Jesus ministry (Luke 17:11-19) testify that he is God.

? How does knowing that Jesus was tempted and acts as your spokesman make Him an ideal guide for your life?

Section 3: Christ Alone As Our Lord (King)

? How do you see Jesus as Lord in the Hebrews passage above?

Possible Answers: Hebrews 2:7 (God is the one who creates and bestows)

? Our understanding and respect for authority today looks very different from those living in the first century. How do our freedoms make it hard to appreciate Christ as King, and how should Christ's lordship affect your daily life?

Possible Answers: Jesus' resurrection from death and defeat of the cross showed Him to be master of death. Living in modern America, we sometimes don't understand or respect authority like a first century Jew. But Christ should be Lord over every part of our lives (family, friendships, finances, work, etc.) and we should go to Him in all aspects of our lives.

? Why is it important that Jesus is not only our Savior and Guide, but also our Lord?

Possible Answers: He should hold the ultimate authority, with the final power and say in all that I do. As my Savior and Guide, He also enables me to serve Him as my Lord and enables my heart to be in the right place to do so.

Section 4: Christ As Priest, Prophet, and King

? Why is it important that Christ is our Priest, Prophet, and King?

Possible Answers: So that the Gospel may hold ultimate authority, truth and guidance in our relationship with God. As Prophet, Jesus pronounced an end to all our sin. As Priest, Jesus offered Himself as the sacrifice for all our sin. As King, Jesus rules in such a way as not to allow sin to reign over us any longer.

? In what ways do we – either consciously or subconsciously – seek righteousness outside of Christ?

How can we learn from these examples and draw closer to God?

Possible Answers: By trying to do things perfectly, doing more and more good to mask the sin, or trying to achieve statues on our own accord. By trying to be a good person. By believing that we have to live up to his will in order to earn our salvation.

For Discussion and Accountability

? How do you behave as though Christ is not Priest, Prophet, and King over your life? Which office do you tend to ignore the most?

? How can you amplify the way in which you worship Jesus as your Savior, your Lord, and your Guide in life this week?