

# Message Notes

## Sola Christus: Christ Alone

# Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

**Introduction** – “Anybody seen Jesus?”

**Today’s Message:**  
*Sola Christus: Christ Alone*  
John 1

**Why is Sola Christus important?**

**Who is Jesus?**

John 1:1-18  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Colossians 1:15-20  
Hebrews 1:1-4

**Was it necessary that Jesus come to earth?**

Matthew 26:39  
John 14:1-7  
1 Timothy 2:5

**Is Jesus Christ exclusive for our salvation?**

“I am” statements of Jesus in John  
John 18:4-6  
Acts 4:8-12

**What did Jesus accomplish?**

Romans 3:21-26  
see also (Romans 1:1-4, Hebrews 9:15-28,  
Hebrews 10)

### Summary:

**Jesus accomplished ALL of these:**

Propitiation (*Substitutionary Atonement*)  
Redemption (*Our Ransom paid*)  
Reconciliation (*We get to go home!*)  
Justice and Justification (*Imputation show  
God’s Justice and Mercy!*)  
Victory and Conquest (*Christus Victor*)  
Moral Example

Penal Substitution – *the jewel rediscovered by the reformers*

**What does all this matter to me?**

**Gospel Application** – “Does your understanding of Jesus lead solely to better understanding or to a life of worship and following him?”

**Philippians 2:5-11**

<sup>5</sup>In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup>rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup>and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Colossians 1:15-20**

<sup>15</sup>The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup>For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. <sup>19</sup>For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup>and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

**Matthew 26:39**

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

**John 14:6**

<sup>6</sup>Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**1 Timothy 2:5**

For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus.

**Acts 4:12**

<sup>12</sup>Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

**John 18:6**

<sup>6</sup>When Jesus said, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground.

**Romans 3:19-27**

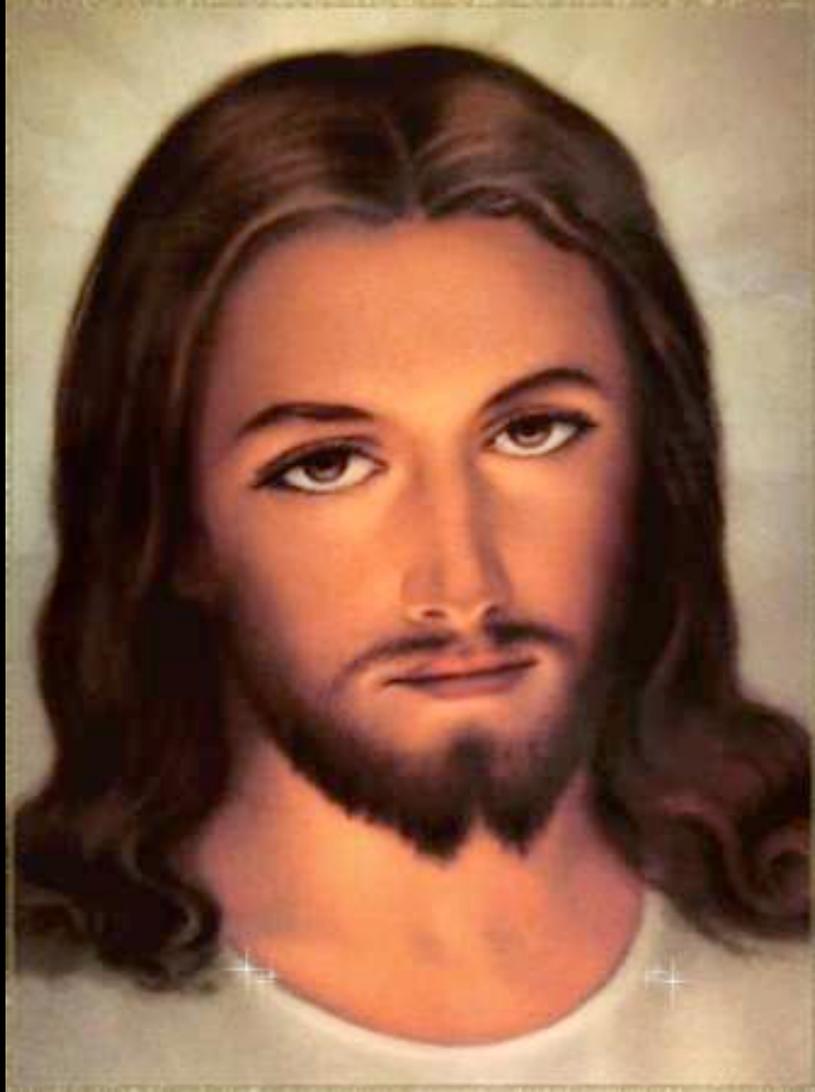
<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. <sup>22</sup>This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, <sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. <sup>25</sup>God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, <sup>26</sup>through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—<sup>27</sup>he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded...



**who's your buddy?**

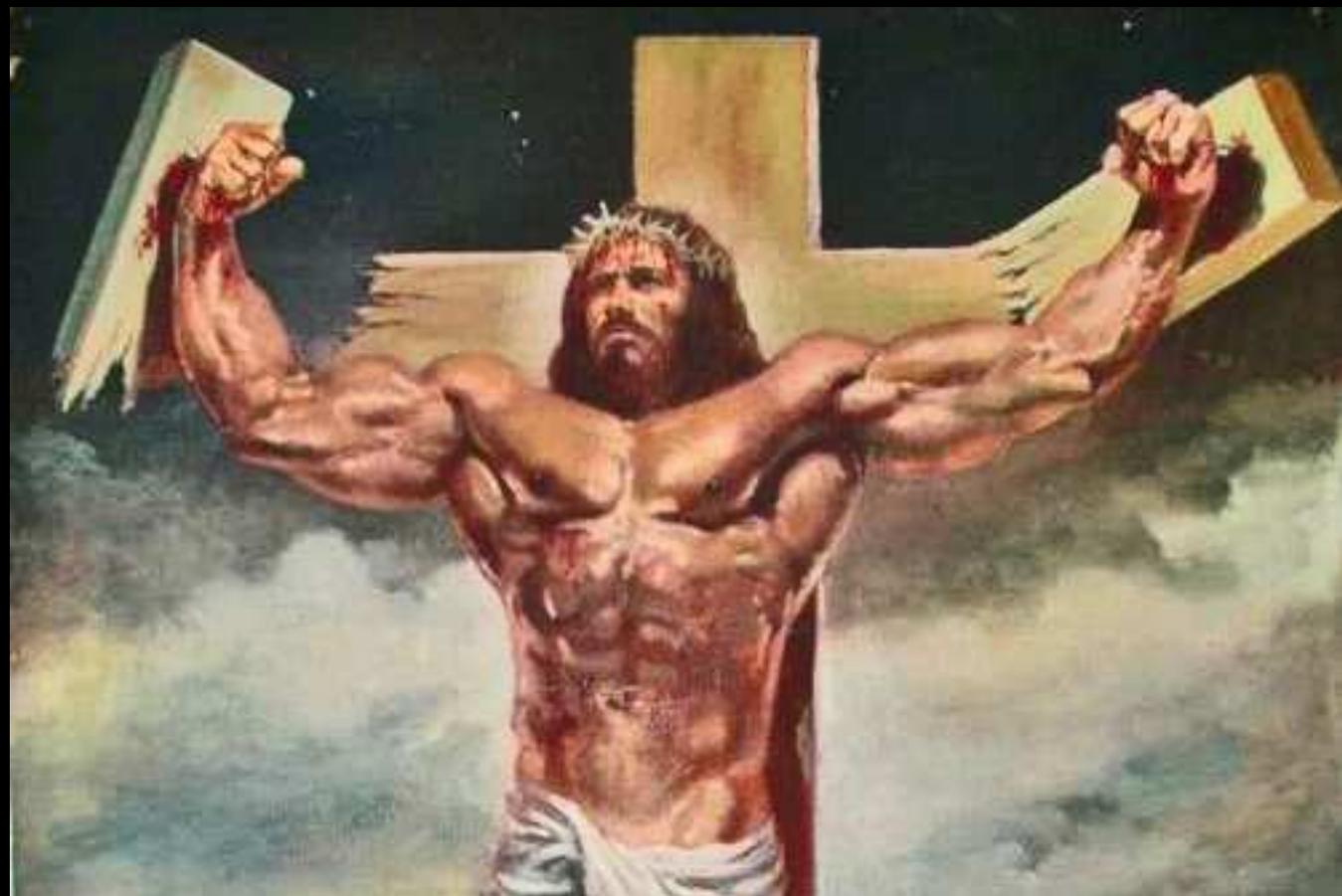












NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017 • VOL. 36, NO. 4 • \$5.00  
WWW.BIBLICALARCHAEOLOGY.ORG

# BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY REVIEW

## JESUS

History vs. Tradition

The Samaritan Temple  
on Mt. Gerizim

Bronze Age Bracelet or  
Modern Bedouin Trinket?

Biblical Puzzles Solved at Ugarit





**If Jesus was alive  
today, most christians  
would not want to sit  
next to him on a  
plane...**

BBC "forensic" portrait showing what Jesus  
most likely looked like.



1517



2017

**AMAZING GRACE**

*The Reformation to the Glory of God*

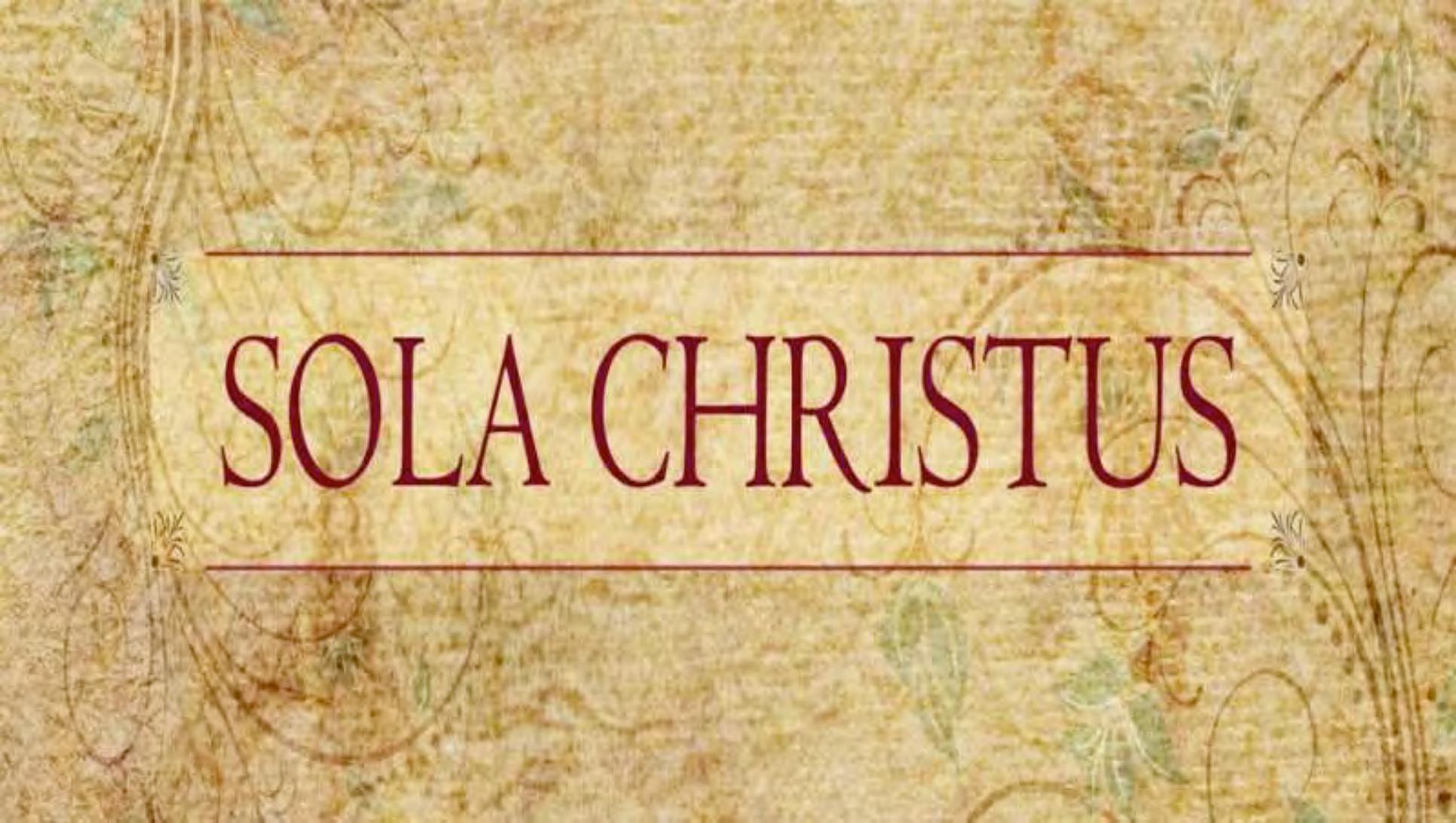


FIVE

SOLAS

# AMAZING GRACE

*The Reformation to the Glory of God*



SOLA CHRISTUS

## John 1:1-18

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning.

<sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

## John 1:1-18

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

## John 1:1-18

<sup>9</sup>The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — <sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

## John 1:1-18

<sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh  
and made his dwelling among us.  
We have seen his glory,  
the glory of the one and only Son,  
who came from the Father,  
full of grace and truth.

## John 1:1-18

<sup>15</sup>(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ ”) <sup>16</sup>Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.



1517



2017

# AMAZING GRACE

*The Reformation to the Glory of God*

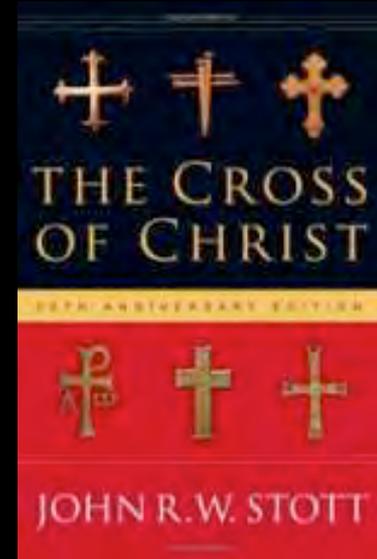
Today's Message:  
**Sola Christus: *Christ Alone***

Today's Message:  
**Sola Christus: *Christ Alone***

*aka ~ Jesus is all we need*

Why is *Sola Christus* important?

At the root of every caricature of the cross lies a distorted Christology. The person and work of Christ belong together. If he was not who the apostles say he was, then he could not have done what they say he did.



~ John R. W. Stott, *The Cross of Christ*, 20th Anniversary Edition (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2006), page 159.



# CHRISTOLOGY

**Who is Jesus?**

## Philippians 2:5-11

<sup>5</sup>In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup>rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! <sup>9</sup>Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## Colossians 1:15-20

<sup>15</sup>The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup>For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. <sup>19</sup>For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup>and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

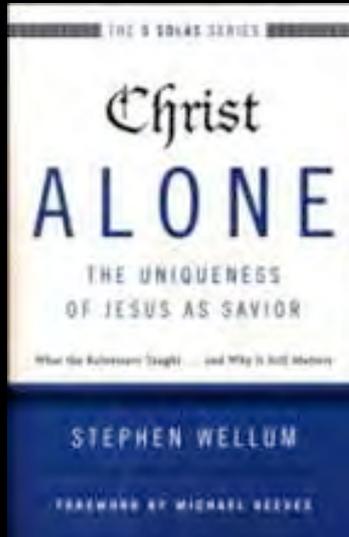
## Hebrews 1:1-4

<sup>1</sup>In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. <sup>3</sup>The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. <sup>4</sup>So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

**Was it necessary for Jesus to come to earth  
and be our savior?**

Anselm begins his famous *Why God Became Man* with these words: “By what logic or necessity did God become man, and by his death, as we believe and profess, restore life to the world, when he could have done this through the agency of some other, angelic or human, or simply by willing it?”

As Anselm practices a “faith seeking understanding” by wrestling with the why of the incarnation and the cross, especially in light of the awful cost both were to the eternal Son, the question of necessity naturally arises. Was the incarnation and the cross merely one of God’s chosen ways to save us, or was it the only way? Could the triune God, in his infinite knowledge and wisdom, have planned another way to save fallen creatures? Or were Christ and his work the only way? This is the question of necessity.



~ Stephen Wellum, *Christ Alone---The Uniqueness of Jesus as Savior: What the Reformers Taught...and Why It Still Matters* (The Five Solas Series), page 32.

## **Matthew 26:39**

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

## John 14:1-7

<sup>1</sup>“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup>You know the way to the place where I am going.”

<sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

<sup>6</sup>Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

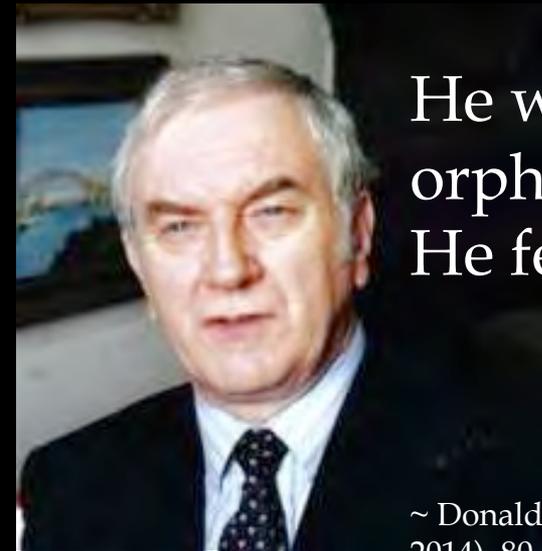
## **1 Timothy 2:5**

For there is one God and one mediator  
between God and mankind,  
the man Christ Jesus.

Above all, he shared with us the misery of our human condition: human existence as determined by the fall. He knew poverty, homelessness, contempt, loneliness, rejection, death in its cruelest form, and, at last, the loss of all sense of the presence of God. He lived amid squalor, violence and injustice. He heard the cursing, the blasphemy and the threats.

He was tormented by the needs of the widow, the orphan and the leper. He felt for the tax-collector. He feared for his people. He wept for the world.

~ Donald Macleod, *Christ Crucified: Understanding the Atonement* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2014), 80.



**Is Jesus Christ exclusive for our salvation?**

# { 7 }

I AM  
statements  
of JESUS





**"I am the true vine"**

JOHN 15:1-5



**"I am the bread of life"**

JOHN 6:35-48



**"I am the way, the truth and the life"**

JOHN 14:6

# The seven **"I AM"** statements of Jesus



**"I am the light of the world"**

JOHN 8:12; 9:5



**"I am the resurrection and the life"**

JOHN 11:25



**"I am the good shepherd"**

JOHN 10:11-14



**"I am the gate"**

JOHN 10:7

## John 18:4-6

<sup>4</sup>Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, “Who is it you want?”

<sup>5</sup>“Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied.

“I am he,” Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) <sup>6</sup>When Jesus said, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground.

## Acts 4:8-12

<sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! <sup>9</sup>If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, <sup>10</sup>then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. <sup>11</sup>Jesus is

“ ‘the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.’ [Psalm 118:22]

<sup>12</sup>Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

Because an eternal, unchangeable sentence of condemnation has passed upon sin — for God cannot and will not regard sin with favor, but his wrath abides upon it eternally and irrevocably — redemption was not possible with a ransom of such precious worth as to atone for sin, to assume the guilt, pay the price of wrath and thus abolish sin. This no creature was able to do. There was no remedy except for God's only Son to step into our distress and himself become man, to take upon himself the load of awful and eternal wrath and make his own body and blood a sacrifice for sin. And so he did, out of the immeasurably great mercy and love towards us, giving himself up and bearing the sentence of unending wrath and death.



~ Martin Luther, "Epistle Sermon: Twenty-fourth Sunday after Trinity," cited in John Nicholas Lenker, ed., *The Precious and Sacred Writings of Martin Luther* (Minneapolis: Luther Press, 1909), 9: 43– 45









~~HDR~~





The subject of the old  
gospel was God and his  
ways with men; the subject  
of the new is man and the  
help God gives him.

There is a world of difference.

—*J.I. Packer*

**What did Jesus accomplish?**



the chief point,  
and the very central place of the Epistle,  
and of the whole Bible.”



~ Martin Luther's notes on Romans 3:21-26 in his personal Bible

## Romans 3:21-27

<sup>21</sup>But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. <sup>22</sup>This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, <sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. <sup>25</sup>God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, <sup>m</sup> through the shedding of his blood — to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished — <sup>26</sup>he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

## Romans 3:21-27

<sup>21</sup>But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. <sup>22</sup>This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, <sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. <sup>25</sup>God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, <sup>m</sup> through the shedding of his blood – to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished – <sup>26</sup>he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded...

The first and chief article is this: Jesus Christ, our God and Lord, died for our sins and was raised again for our justification (Romans 3:24-25). He alone is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29), and God has laid on Him the iniquity of us all (Isaiah 53:6). All have sinned and are justified freely, without their own works and merits, by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, in His blood (Romans 3:23-25). This is necessary to believe. This cannot be otherwise acquired or grasped by any work, law, or merit. Therefore, it is clear and certain that this faith alone justifies us...Nothing of this article can be yielded or surrendered, even though heaven and earth and everything else falls (Mark 13:31).



~ Martin Luther, *The Smalcald Articles in Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions* (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2005), 289, Part two, Article 1.

**What did Jesus accomplish?**

**ALL of these:**

**What did Jesus accomplish?**

**ALL of these:**

Propitiation (*Substitutionary Atonement*)

# What did Jesus accomplish?

## ALL of these:

Propitiation (*Substitutionary Atonement*)

Redemption (*Our Ransom paid*)

# What did Jesus accomplish?

ALL of these:

Propitiation (*Substitutionary Atonement*)

Redemption (*Our Ransom paid*)

Reconciliation (*We get to go home!*)

# What did Jesus accomplish?

ALL of these:

Propitiation (*Substitutionary Atonement*)

Redemption (*Our Ransom paid*)

Reconciliation (*We get to go home!*)

Justice and Justification (*Imputation shows God's Justice and Mercy!*)

# What did Jesus accomplish?

ALL of these:

Propitiation (*Substitutionary Atonement*)

Redemption (*Our Ransom paid*)

Reconciliation (*We get to go home!*)

Justice and Justification (*Imputation shows God's Justice and Mercy!*)

Victory and Conquest (*Christus Victor*)

# What did Jesus accomplish?

ALL of these:

Propitiation (*Substitutionary Atonement*)

Redemption (*Our Ransom paid*)

Reconciliation (*We get to go home!*)

Justice and Justification (*Imputation shows God's Justice and Mercy!*)

Victory and Conquest (*Christus Victor*)

Moral Example

# What did Jesus accomplish?

**ALL of these:**

Propitiation (*Substitutionary Atonement*)

Redemption (*Our Ransom paid*)

Reconciliation (*We get to go home!*)

Justice and Justification (*Imputation shows God's Justice and Mercy!*)

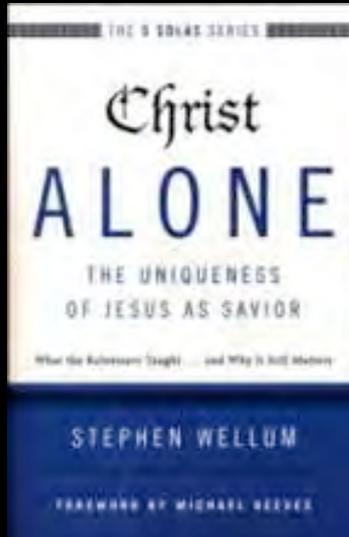
Victory and Conquest (*Christus Victor*)

Moral Example

**Penal Substitution**

*the jewel rediscovered by the reformers*

Penal substitution – the Reformation theology of the cross – is the best way of capturing and making sense of all the biblical data – the “factual” presentation of the cross, how the divine problem of forgiveness is resolved, why the cross is necessary, and all of the biblical language of the cross. It is true that the Bible’s description of the cross is rich and diverse, and we must never succumb to reductionism. Yet when all of the data is placed in the Bible’s own storyline and framework, penal substitution best captures the Bible’s own explanation for why Christ had to die as our Lord and Savior.



~ Stephen Wellum, *Christ Alone---The Uniqueness of Jesus as Savior: What the Reformers Taught...and Why It Still Matters* (The Five Solas Series), page 243.

What did Christ's death accomplish? It redeemed us to God – purchased us at a price, that is, from captivity to sin for the freedom of life with God (Tit 2: 14; Rev 5: 9). How did it do that? By being a blood-sacrifice for our sins (Eph 1: 7; Heb 9: 11– 15). How did that sacrifice have its redemptive effect? By making peace, achieving reconciliation, and so ending enmity between God and ourselves (Rom 5: 10; 2 Cor 5: 18– 20; Eph 2: 13– 16; Col 1: 19– 20). How did Christ's death make peace? By being a propitiation, an offering appointed by God himself to dissolve his judicial wrath against us by removing our sins from his sight (Rom 3: 25; Heb 2: 17; 1 John 2: 2; 4: 10). How did the Savior's self-sacrifice have this propitiatory effect? By being a vicarious enduring of the retribution declared due to us by God's own law (Gal 3: 13; Col 2: 13– 14) – in other words, by penal substitution.



~ J. I. Packer, "The Atonement in the Life of the Christian," in Hill and James, *Glory of the Atonement*, page 416.

**What does all this matter to me?**

“Welcome, child,” he said.

“Aslan,” said Lucy, “you’re bigger.”

“That is because you are older, little one,” answered he.

“Not because you are?”

“I am not. But every year you grow, you will find me bigger.”

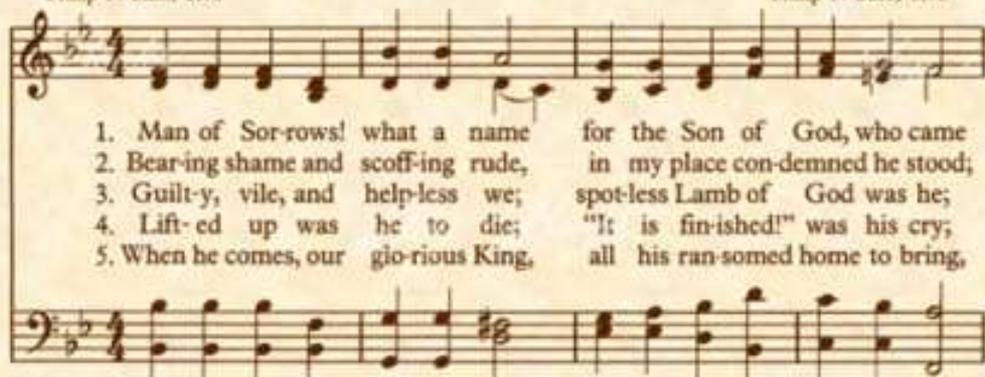
~ C. S. Lewis, *Prince Caspian: The Return to Narnia*  
(New York: HarperCollins, 1994), page 141.



# Hallelujah! What A Savior!

Philip P. Bliss, 1875

Philip P. Bliss, 1875



1. Man of Sor-rows! what a name for the Son of God, who came  
2. Bear-ing shame and scoff-ing rude, in my place con-demned he stood;  
3. Guilt-y, vile, and help-less we; spot-less Lamb of God was he;  
4. Lift-ed up was he to die; "It is fin-ished!" was his cry;  
5. When he comes, our glo-ri-ous King, all his ran-somed home to bring,



ru-ined sin-ners to re-claim. Hal-le-lu-jah! What a Sav-ior!  
sealed my par-don with his blood. Hal-le-lu-jah! What a Sav-ior!  
full a-tone-ment can it be? Hal-le-lu-jah! What a Sav-ior!  
now in heaven ex-ult-ed high. Hal-le-lu-jah! What a Sav-ior!  
then a-new this song we'll sing: Hal-le-lu-jah! What a Sav-ior!



1517



2017

**AMAZING GRACE**

*The Reformation to the Glory of God*

# Gospel Application:

*Does your understanding of Jesus lead solely to better understanding or to a life of worship and following him?*