



Christ Alone

Lesson Thirteen

How Does Christ Alone Relate to the Rest of the Solas?

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.'" John 14:6

- ❖ Christ Alone is the **Focus** of Scripture Alone: *"I AM the Truth!"*
- ❖ Christ Alone is the **Object** of Faith Alone: *"I AM the WAY!"*
- ❖ Christ Alone is the **Source** of Grace Alone: *"I AM the LIFE!"*
- ❖ Christ Alone is the **Expression** of God's Glory Alone: *"NO ONE comes to the Father EXCEPT through ME!"*

Definitions

"Salvation has been accomplished once for all by the mediatorial work of the historical Jesus Christ alone. His sinless life and substitutionary atonement alone are sufficient for our justification...so that no merit on the part of man, no merit of the saints, no works of ours performed either here or later in purgatory, can add to His completed work. In fact...any 'gospel' that fails to acknowledge that or denies it is a false gospel that will save no one."
– James Montgomery Boice, *Whatever Happened to the Gospel of Grace*

"In short, to preach Christ is specifically to proclaim Him in His offices as Prophet, Priest, and King. We need no other prophets to reveal God's word or will; no further priests to mediate divine salvation and blessing; and no additional king to rule the doctrine and life of churches or individual Christians. And further, to represent Christ chiefly as the Divine Therapist, Guide, Lover, Hero, Power Source, Political Reformer, Healer, Coach, or anything else other than the Mediator between God and the wicked is to remove the centrality of Christ by undercutting the centrality of His genuine mission and office." – Michael Horton, *Here we Stand: A Call from Confessing Evangelicals*

Confessions

The London Baptist Confession on Christ the Mediator Articles 1-10

Article 1 God was pleased, in his eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, His only begotten Son, according to the covenant made between them, to be the mediator between God and humanity. God chose Him to be prophet, priest, and king, and to be head and savior of the church, the heir of all things, and judge of the world. From all eternity, God gave to the Son a people to be His offspring. In time these people would be redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified by Him.

The Cambridge Declaration

WE REAFFIRM that our salvation is accomplished by the mediatorial work of the historical Christ alone. His sinless life and substitutionary atonement alone are sufficient for our justification and reconciliation to the Father.
WE DENY that the gospel is preached if Christ's substitutionary work is not declared and faith in Christ and His work is not solicited.

Affirmations

"I teach that people should put their trust in nothing but Jesus Christ alone, not in their prayers, merits, or their own good deeds." – Martin Luther

"I must listen to the gospel. It tells me not what I must do, but what Jesus Christ the Son of God has done for me." – Martin Luther

"What I am telling you is that it is easier for us humans to believe and trust in everything else than in the name of Christ, who alone is all in all, and more difficult for us for us to rely on Him in whom and through whom we possess all things." – Martin Luther

"We must understand that as long as Christ remains outside of us, and we are separated from Him, all that He has suffered and done for the salvation of the human race remains useless and of no value for us." – John Calvin

"Christ is the only way of salvation of all who were, are now, or shall be." – Ulrich Zwingli

Jesus is everything to us and for us in the gospel." – James Montgomery Boice

The BIG IDEA of ROMANS 5:12-21

God gives the super-abounding gift of saving grace **through Christ alone** to those enslaved under sin's deadly rule in Adam.

CONNECTION to the Context

"Therefore" looks back to all of Romans 1:16-5:11

The Tale of Two Men: Everyone Is Either in **ADAM** or in **CHRIST!**

1. Reflect on the Reign of **DEATH** in Adam. (5:12-14)

- ❖ Sin and death **ENTERED** humanity due to one man, Adam.
"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin," (v. 12a)
 - 1) **SIN** entered humanity through one man – Adam!
Read about it in *Genesis 1:26-31; 2:7-17; 3:1-24*
 - 2) **DEATH** entered humanity through the sin of the one man – Adam!

God said: "You shall surely die!" (2:17)

Satan said: "You surely shall not die!" (3:4)

Death in the Bible Is Separation

Physical Death is the **separation** of the spirit from the body. (3:24)

Spiritual Death is the **separation** of the person from the God as well as others. (3:7, 10)

Eternal Death is the **separation** of the resurrected person from the God for all eternity in the Lake of Fire. (3:24; Rev. 20:14-15)

❖ Sin and death **SPREAD** to all of humanity due to the sin of the one man, Adam!

"and so (= in this way) death spread to all men, because all sinned — (v. 12b)

How Do All People Become Sinners?

Two Basic Options Among Many:

- 1) We become sinners only when we **PERSONALLY** sin as individuals.
- 2) We sin because we are **COUNTED** as sinners in Adam and are born sinners who then choose to sin.

The Near Context Makes a Strong Case for the Second Option:

Verses 13-14 teach that sin's deadly consequences **EXISTED** before there was a specific Law to sin against like Adam.

Verses 15-19 repeatedly emphasize how the **ONE** act of this **ONE** man impacted all of humanity.

Verses 14 says that the First Adam is a **TYPE/PATTERN** of coming one, Jesus Christ the Second and Last Adam!

*If we became sinners in Adam due to our **OWN** acts of sin, then by that pattern we should become righteous in Christ by our **OWN** act of righteousness.*

*But the rest of the passage seems to teach that Adam's sin is **COUNTED** as belonging to those who are in him **just as** Christ's righteousness is **COUNTED** to those who are in Him.*

1Corinthians 15:20-25; 45-49

THE ANALOGY	HUMANITY in ADAM	NEW HUMANITY in CHRIST
2 MEN	The First Adam	The Coming One Who Is the Second and Last Adam
2 ACTS	One Act of Disobedience	One Act of Obedience (includes His incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension)
2 HUMANITIES	All Who Are in Adam Are Justly Counted as Sinning with Adam	All Who Are in Christ Are Graciously (but Justly) Given the Gift of Being Counted as Righteous/Justified with Christ
2 DESTINIES	Those in Adam Are Enslaved Under the Reign of Sin > Condemnation > Eternal Death	Those in Christ Are Reigning with Him in Righteousness > Justification > Eternal Life by Super-abounding Grace Through Christ Alone!

2. Reflect on the Reign of LIFE in Christ Alone. (vv. 15-19)

❖ Contrast Adam's Act of Transgression and Christ's **GIFT** of Grace

"But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many." (v. 15)

Christ's GIFT Is Not Like Adam's TRANSGRESSION:

- 1) The Gift is a **FREE** gift.
- 2) The Gift is given because of God's **GRACE**.
- 3) The Gift is given by means of the **GRACIOUS** act done by the one Man, Jesus Christ alone.
- 4) The Gift **ABOUNDS/OVERFLOWS** so **much more** to "the Many" who receive it.

❖ Contrast the Condemnation in Adam and the **JUSTIFICATION** in Christ

"The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification." (v. 16)

The IMMEDIATE RESULT of Christ's GIFT Is Not Like Adam's TRANSGRESSION:

- 1) God's Verdict of Condemnation in Adam: Declared **GUILTY** before God due to sinning in and with Adam!
- 2) God's Verdict of Justification in Christ: Declared **RIGHT** in God's sight due to God's grace alone through Christ alone!

❖ Contrast the Reign of Death in Adam and **REIGNING** in Life with Christ

"For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ." (v. 17)

The REIGNING IN LIFE in Christ Is Not Like DEATH'S REIGN Through Adam:

- 1) One is a reign of **death** but the other is a reign of **LIFE**.
- 2) One is a reign established by Adam's **one sin** but the other is established by Christ's **one free gift**, the gift of **justification plus OVERFLOWING grace**.
- 3) One reign **ENSLAVES** those who are in Adam to sin's deadly rule but the other **LIBERATES** the recipients of the gift to **RULE** in righteous living with Christ.

❖ Contrast All Who Are Condemned and **ALL** Who Are Justified

"So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men." (v. 18)

Is Paul Teaching a Form of Universalism Where Everyone Will Eventually Be Saved in Christ?

NO! You would have rip this verse out of its biblical context to build a doctrine of Universalism on it.

Three Reasons This Verse Is Not Teaching Universalism

- 1) Those who are in Adam must **RECEIVE** the free gift to be in Christ. (v. 17)
- 2) The rest of the Book of Romans makes it very clear **HOW** a person must receive the free gift of being justified in Christ!
*You must receive the free gift of justification by **FAITH ALONE** in **CHRIST ALONE!** (Romans 3:21-5:11)*
*You must **HEAR** the gospel proclaimed and respond because faith comes by hearing the gospel! (Romans 10:8-17; 1:16-17)*
- 3) The Bible makes it very clear that all those who never hear and receive the free gift will consciously suffer God's eternal **WRATH**. (Romans 1:18-19; 2:4-9; 3:5-6; 9:21-24; 2Thessalonians 2:8-15; Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 20:14-15)

❖ Contrast the Many Declared to Be Sinners and the Many Declared to Be **RIGHTEOUS**

"For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous." (v. 19)

God's Just Verdict on the Humanity in Adam Is Not Like His Just but Gracious Verdict on the New Humanity in Christ.

- 1) Through Adam's **disobedience** the Many (= All of Humanity) are declared to be **SINNERS!**
- 2) Through Christ's **obedience** the Many (= All of Who Receive the Gift in Christ) are declared to be **JUSTIFIED SINNERS**. (Philippians 2:6-8; Daniel 9:24; Isaiah 53:11; 2Corinthians 5:21; 1:30)

3. Rejoice in the Reign of **GRACE** in Christ Alone. (5:20-21)

❖ Bad News: The Law entered the picture not make one righteous but to **increase** one's sinfulness. (Romans 3:20; 7:7-11; Galatians 3:19-24)

❖ Good News: Where sin abounds, grace **super abounds** through Christ alone!

"Even so GRACE WOULD REIGN through RIGHTEOUSNESS to ETERNAL LIFE through JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD!"

Justification Is Through CHRIST ALONE!

God gives the free gift of being justified **through Christ alone** to those who were once enslaved under sin's deadly rule in Adam but are now the recipients of His super-abounding grace **in Christ alone**.

RECEIVE the GIFT of Super-Abounding Grace!

"But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested...even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;" Romans 3:21-22

REJOICE in the GIFT of Super-Abounding Grace!

"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God." Romans 5:1-2

REIGN Over Sin by the GIFT of Super-Abounding Grace!

"What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?...Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus." Romans 6:1-2, 11

RE-GIFT the GIFT of Super-Abounding Grace!

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous shall live by faith." Romans 1:16-17