



Christ Alone
4th in the “Sola” Series
Colossians 1:15-20, p. 983
Oct 29, 2017
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this sermon we listen to the church’s cry for “Christ Alone,” and apply it to our life and ministry.

The Text: Colossians 1:15-20

1) “Christ Alone” is clearly derived from God’s Word: Colossians 1:15-20.

a) *Christ is the Pinnacle of the First Creation (vv. 15-17).*

b) *Christ is the Lord of the Church (v. 18).*

c) *Christ is the Savior of the New Creation (vv. 19-20).*

2) “Christ Alone” has several applications for the Christian and the church.

a) Christ Alone means that everything God wants to accomplish he does in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

“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” (LBC 8.1).

b) Christ Alone requires a correct understanding of the person of Jesus.

“The Son of God, the second person of the Holy Trinity, is truly and eternally God. He is the brightness of the Father’s glory, the same in substance and equal with him. He made the world and sustains and governs everything he has made. When the fullness of time came, he took upon himself human nature, with all the essential properties and common weaknesses of it but without sin. ... Two whole, perfect, and distinct natures were inseparably joined together in one person, without converting one into the other or mixing them together to produce a different or blended nature. This person is truly God and truly man, yet one Christ, the only mediator between God and humanity” (LBC 8.2).

c) Christ Alone declares that Jesus accomplished our salvation by his perfect life and sacrificial death.

“The Lord Jesus has fully satisfied the justice of God, obtained reconciliation, and purchased an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven for all those given to him by the Father. He has accomplished these things by his perfect obedience and sacrifice of himself, which he once for all offered up to God through the eternal Spirit” (LBC 8.5).

d) Christ Alone means that the accomplishment of Jesus on the cross was for all people and for all time.

“The price of redemption was not actually paid by Christ till after his incarnation. Yet the virtue, efficacy, and benefit of it was imparted to the elect in every age since the beginning of the world, in and by those promises, types, and sacrifices that revealed him and pointed to him as the seed that would bruise the serpent’s head and the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. He is the same yesterday and today and forever” (LBC 8.6).

e) Christ Alone means that Christ is our primary minister – from (new) birth to death.

“This office of mediator between God and humanity is appropriate for Christ alone, who is the prophet, priest, and king of the church of God. This office may not be transferred from him to anyone else, either in whole or in part” (LBC 8.9). “To all those for whom Christ has obtained eternal redemption, he certainly and effectually applies and imparts it. He intercedes for them, unites them to himself by his Spirit, and reveals to them in and by his Word the mystery of salvation. He persuades them to believe and obey and governs their hearts by his Word and Spirit. He overcomes all their enemies by his almighty power and wisdom, using methods and ways that are perfectly consistent with his wonderful and unsearchable governance.” (LBC 8.8).

f) Christ Alone means that the church is assigned to be his assistant ministers, shepherding his people and serving as his Body in the world.

“To every church gathered..., conforming to Christ’s mind as declared in his Word, he has given all power and authority that is in any way necessary to conduct the form of worship and discipline that he has instituted for them to observe. He has also given them commands and rules to use and carry out that power rightly and properly.” (LBC 26.7).

Response

- In light of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, how can we make sure we are living by Christ Alone?

Sunday Text Questions for Colossians 1:15-20 (Christ Alone)

October 29, 2017

Pastor Mickey Klink

- 1) Starter Question: How would you explain Jesus Christ to someone who asked you?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) The beginning of v. 15 declares that Jesus “is the image of the invisible God.” How is Jesus the revelation of and the best expression of God?
- 4) A misreading of the phrase “firstborn of all creation,” like that of a Jehovah Witness, would interpret it to be saying that Jesus is the first created being. What is the statement actually saying about Jesus?
- 5) How do the prepositions in vv. 16-17 (*by him, through him, for him, before* all things, and *in him*) describe the person and work of Jesus Christ?
- 6) What does the phrase in v. 18 about Jesus, that he is “the firstborn from the dead,” teach us about the significance of Jesus’ resurrection, and about the start of the New Creation?
- 7) How do vv. 19-20 explain that Jesus will restore all things in the New Creation? Why is the cross so important?
- 8) What will peace (*shalom*) be like in the New Creation? How can we place our hope in that truth?
- 9) How is Jesus truly at the center of everything – in life and death, in this world and the world to come?
- 10) What things in this world and in your life challenge Jesus for the center spot? How can you recognize them and replace them with Christ?

Further study this week: Romans 1:1-4 on the appointment of Christ as Mediator (Mon); 1 Timothy 1:12-17 on Jesus as Savior (Tues); Hebrews 7-8 on Jesus as Prophet, Priest, and King (Wed); Acts 4:1-22 on salvation only through Jesus (Thurs); Hebrews 1 on the radiance of Jesus (Fri).