

Question. Do any of you fear drowning? I do. A few years ago, I was on a pontoon boat with friends in Lake Conroe, TX. I stupidly jumped off to swim without a life preserver. It seemed the harder I swam to get back on the boat, the further I would drift away. The moment of fear set in big time! But, when the others saw the panic in my eyes, they quickly threw me a life preserver and pulled me back to the boat!

Today, as we continue our Reformation 500 sermon series, "SOLA", we're going to be looking at... 1) How we are all sinners... 2) How this condition is serious... 3) How this separates us eternally from God... 4) How we need a solution outside of ourselves... and 5) How SOLUS Christus - Christ Alone is our salvation! And, it's not about "religious superiority" but about our utter inability to solve this without Christ!

Christ alone, NOT self help or humanism. I know many argue, "I'm a good person." Others argue, "People have evolved and become better." But, I'd argue, our universal sin and spiritual condition is worse than it's ever been! We are Solum Peccator, "sinner alone". And, we need salvation! In John 14:6 (ESV), Jesus says, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Christ alone, NOT Mary, saints, or superstitions. These don't have sublime holiness, serve as mediators of grace, or share in redemption. Burying St. Joseph in the front yard to sell your home doesn't work! In

1 Timothy 2:5 (ESV), Paul says, “There’s one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” The shortest distance between two points is a straight line. Jesus’ sacrifice and merits are all sufficient!

Christ alone, NOT pluralism or relativism. This is all over our culture. “All religions are different paths to the same God.” “COEXIST.” *Show symbol.* “You have your truth, I have mine.” Even Pontius Pilate asked Jesus, “What is truth?” In Acts 4:12 (ESV), Peter says, “There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” That name is Jesus Christ!

The life application? 1. Believe in Christ alone! In Romans 1:16 (ESV), Paul says, “I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.” 2. Live in Christ alone! In Galatians 2:20 (ESV), Paul says, “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.” Believing Christ saves you is more compelling to this world than any seminary degree!

Let’s pray. Lord, Jesus is our complete and perfect Savior. He’s accomplished everything necessary for our eternal redemption. He’s put away our sin by the sacrifice of Himself on the cross. He’s the resurrection and the life. He’s our chief prophet, only high priest, and eternal king. Lord, as Hebrews 12:2a (ESV) says, “Let us look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.” Let us have faith in Christ alone!