

The Five Solas

OF THE REFORMATION

[PART 2]

SOLUS CHRISTUS

Reading: John 19:28 - 30

Introduction

- The Reformation of 1517 was a necessary split from what had become paganised Christianity.
- Superstitions and a '*works based*' gospel had replaced Bible truth and the gospel of free grace.
- It began with Luther discovering and reading a Bible.
- He re-discovered the gospel: a person is justified by grace through faith in Christ.
- The motto of the Reformation was '*post tenebras lux*!' (After darkness, light).
- Five principles define the reformation: the 5 sola's. Scripture alone says the Bible defines what we believe and practise, not creeds and councils. [Isaiah 8:20].

1 Solus Christus - Christ Alone

- This has to do with Christ's work on the cross.
- Scripture teaches that Christ has done all the necessary work for our salvation.

- [John 19:30]. ***“It is finished.”*** (Greek word is ***‘tetelestai’*** meaning ***‘paid in full.’***)
- Christ’s one offering/sacrifice/death was sufficient to save our souls.
- No other person’s (ours or someone else’s) contribution is necessary to save us.
- There can be no adding to His ***‘completed’*** work.

2 Rome’s Treasury Of Merit

- Roman Catholic teaching adds to the work of Christ by means of ***‘the treasury of merits.’***
- Supposedly a treasury in heaven full of the excess merits of Mary and saints.
- This implies people can be good enough to get to heaven on their own without Christ. (Heresy).
- Bible teaches **NO ONE** has enough merit for themselves let alone others. [Romans 3:10, 12, 23].
- These merits are available to the ordinary person who hasn’t enough of their own merit to get to heaven.
- For Rome it is Christ + the merits of others.
- Rome claims the pope dispenses the merits at his discretion from this imagined treasury.
- A person gets these merits via the purchase of indulgences to get them out of purgatory.
- Mary didn’t have merit for herself hence she rejoices in God her Saviour. [Luke 1:46].
- When I believe in Christ’s work for me on the cross, God takes the merits of Christ and applies them to me.
- Rome says salvation is the work of Christ + the works of the saints.
- Reformation people say ***‘No! It is the work of Christ alone’*** for our salvation.

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