

Date: 23.09.2020

Time: 7.30pm

Service taken by: Rev Gavino Fioretti

Reading: Acts 4

Text: Acts 4:12

Outline: Christ Alone

a) Introduction

1 Biblical foundation for the motto

2. The grounds for the motto

3. The necessity of the motto

4. The implications of the motto

Christ Alone

- **Introduction**

Christ alone. This motto is a historic motto, used at a specific time in the history of the church when the reformers were rediscovering the truth. This was a response to the Roman Catholic church's teaching that there was more to salvation than grace and Christ – they taught that Jesus was needed, but other things too. Reformers proclaimed that salvation is available and possible through Christ alone.

The motto *Christ alone* was offensive at the time of the reformation and it is offensive today. People don't mind if you believe in God – they like to think themselves tolerant. But the moment we preach Christ and Him crucified, the moment we show that He is the only way to be saved, this message offends. The preaching and proclamation of Christ offended at the time of the apostle, in the history of the church and it offends today. It offended Jew and gentile, but this did not stop the apostles from proclaiming truth. That there is only one way to be forgiven offends the mind of the modern man. Christians will be persecuted who proclaim this truth.

1) Biblical foundation for the motto

Jesus said that He is the way, the truth, the life. The motto, *Christ alone* is not just the conclusion of the reformers, but it's what Jesus said about Himself. He is *the way*, truth and life. Without Jesus, there is no forgiveness of sin. We have life when we are attached to the vine – apart from Him, there is no life in us. There is no other way to be forgiven, reconciled and to have eternal life. He's the door, the way, the truth, the life. All you need is Jesus and none but Him. You don't need the right

feelings or the right church, you need Jesus. He is the cornerstone, He is the Chosen One of God. The only way to be saved is to put your trust in Christ. Jesus is the only mediator between God and man. He brings us into fellowship with God. He reconciles the world to God. Salvation is through Christ alone – this is a biblical fact.

2) The grounds for the motto

His Person: Christ's person is unique, there is no-one like Him. There are many good men in history, but no-one like Jesus. He is God in the flesh. He is from eternity. He is holy. He is the Son of God. No man is equal to God. No man can claim to be like God or compare with Him. He is God. He is our only Saviour. He is Jehovah, the great I AM and He is the only way of salvation. He has all power and authority. His blood cleanses from all sin.

His work: The purpose of Jesus coming to live among people for 33 years was to live the life we cannot live, to die on our behalf, to save us. Jesus is the way appointed. He is the Saviour chosen by God. He is the only One who can save us. No-one else died for us and even if they did, their sacrifice wouldn't be able to atone for our sins. Forgiveness is in Christ alone. Salvation is through Christ alone.

3) The necessity of the motto

Outside of Christ, there is no salvation. The only other way to be saved would be to be sinless from the time we were born until the moment we die; to be without one sinful word, thought or deed. God demands perfection. We cannot perfectly keep the law – the demand is too high, the law is too holy, God is too pure and we are too wicked.

We couldn't save ourselves. Someone else needed to die for us – to cleanse us, to intercede for us, to forgive us, to save us. Our sin requires a saviour – that Saviour was appointed by God.

There is no other way by which we must be saved – it's in Christ alone. He's our greatest need. We need Jesus above all else. Our families, friends, community, our nation needs Jesus. Without Him, we stand in filthy rags, wretched, Hell-deserving sinners unable to save ourselves.

4) The implications of the motto

Faith in Christ alone: Our faith needs to be in Christ. All we need to do is put our faith in Christ, to go to Him and plead for forgiveness and cleansing. Don't go somewhere else or to someone else. We need to tell others to put their faith in Christ, to point them to Jesus as the only Saviour.

Certain salvation: If every aspect of our salvation, from beginning to end, has been done by Jesus then our salvation is secure. If 0.01% depends on you, you'd have plenty to fear. But Christ has done it all so our salvation is certain. We need not be unsure, we need not tremble.

Devotion to Christ: If He has borne all of my sin, carried all of my iniquity and died on my behalf, the result will be to love Him, though we cannot love Him as He loves us. In a sense, we love Him more

than anyone else, though we struggle with this at times. We don't love Him as He deserves, but we love Him. The sermons that stay with you are those where Christ is exalted, with the preacher speaking well of your Saviour. Christ is God's way of salvation. He's our only mediator. He's come to save us from our misery and our response must be to love Him.

Worship response: The response of the soul that knows Christ to be the only Saviour is to worship. Our greatest priority as the people of God is the worship of God. Sunday is the most important day of the week for the Christian.

Christ-centred preaching: If Christ is the only way of salvation, we need to hear that. How can people know unless we tell them? We need to lift Jesus on high for people to see Him. The church preaching Christ is an evangelistic church, reaching out to the world. The preaching of Christ is God's means for peoples' salvation. For one to be saved, they need to hear about Christ. We preach Christ and Christ alone as the only way of salvation.