

Read John 14:1-6

Introduction

- Solus Christus
 - Continuing our series on the 5 Solas
 - we arrive at Solus Christus
 - which means 'through Christ alone' or in other words
 - salvation is through Christ alone
 - When the Reformers wrote the 5 Solas
 - which were Latin slogans that clearly identified the differences between the doctrine of Protestants and Catholics
 - they all first hung on the first
 - which was Sola Scriptura
 - The Reformers argued
 - that scripture alone rests as the final authority
 - Thus, it is because of the Scriptures
 - teaching that salvation is through Christ alone
 - that the reformers believed that salvation is through Christ alone
 - See the Catholic church taught a sacramental system as their form of salvation
 - Thus
 - Luther called the Catholic church the 'Salvation Company.'
 - Yes just like a modern companies that distributes goods
 - like Potbelly distributes and sells sandwiches
 - so the Catholic church were the one who dispensed salvation to people Luther observed
 - They argued that because of Christ PLUS
 - Mary
 - and the saints
 - all of their great works created a surplus of righteousness
 - that people can receive by following the sacramental system
 - And this is where Solus Christus stood in defiance of such a teaching
 - I was well aware of this being born and raised Catholic
 - However, as the Lord drew me to Himself
 - and saved me
 - I went away from Catholicism
 - In fact
 - a good Catholic friend told me
 - that the great thing about the Catholic church is that they have 'everything'
 - They don't just have Jesus
 - but they also have Mary
 - angels

- and all the saints that you can call upon to help
- He said in Catholicism you have
 - The Air Force
 - The Marines
 - The Army
 - The Navy
 - And the Coast Guard
- He said the one word that he disliked was 'alone'
 - because he believed that attacked the very features of Catholicism
 - was having a large quantity of help
- So who is right?
- Is salvation through the combined efforts of an individual
 - the sacraments
 - the saints
 - the angels
 - and Mary?
- Or is salvation through Christ alone?
- We're going to find the answer today in this sermon,
 - 'Why you should trust Christ alone.'

Context

- But before we begin
 - We need to understand what Jesus is saying in chapter 14
 - by looking at the surrounding events
- Jesus has just entered Jerusalem
 - He didn't merely walk in to Jerusalem
 - he was welcomed with palm branches
 - and chants of Hossana.
 - His coming was highly anticipated
 - with such extreme excitement
 - and hope that Jesus would conquer all of Israel's enemies
 - and set a kingdom that ruled the world forever
- Jesus entrance was more like a parade
 - A parade of a king's entrance
- The Passover feast was going to begin
 - and so Jesus had begun the supper in an upper room
 - With all the festivities and excitement
 - also came increasing tension and confusion
- Jesus tells his disciples that he is going away
 - something that he has actually been telling the disciples
 - time and time again
 - Instead of a great triumphant victory that the disciples were expecting
 - their master was going to suddenly leave them?

- The disciples were scared
 - afraid of abandonment and confused
 - Peter questions why
 - Why can't he follow Jesus
 - and that he will even die for him
 - right at the end of John 13 in v.37
 - Jesus gives Peter the sobering reality
 - that Peter will instead of laying down his life for him
 - deny him three times
 - This is where our text begins
 - with the followers of Christ feeling afraid
 - worried
 - and confused about what is going to happen to them
 - and what is going to happen to Jesus.
 - So Jesus seeing the disciples
 - fear and confusion seeks to comfort them
 - We see this in v.1 (read)
 - Jesus seeing their hearts waver rallies them to not be troubled
 - The word for troubled in the Greek can also be translated as terrified or disturbed
 - Jesus is saying don't be afraid
 - trust in God and trust in Him
 - As John has already taught in this gospel previously that Jesus is God
 - what Jesus is implying here is that believing in Jesus
 - is the equivalent to believing in God
 - because Jesus *is* God
 - Application
 - This is Jesus' antidote to fear and anxiety
 - Believe in him
 - Have faith in him
 - Trust in Jesus because he has given us promises
 - He promised to never lose any that the Father has given Him
 - but raise him up on the last day
 - That is what Jesus said in John 6:39
 - 39 This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.
 - When you are feeling afraid or worried
 - trust in Jesus' promises
 - because Jesus is God
 - Each promise of God is a powerful antidote against fear and anxiety
- Speaking of promises
 - Jesus adds another promise in order to strengthen the disciples' faith and hearts
 - in v.2-4
 - He explains that He is going away

- in order to bring them to heaven
- Transition
 - And this brings us back to the title of today's sermon
 - Why you should trust Christ alone
 - And the first reason why you should trust Christ alone is:

1. Christ alone can take us to heaven (v.1-3)

a. Defining heaven

i. But first

1. a question:
2. where is heaven?

- ii. Is heaven in a garden as described by Muslims?
- iii. Is heaven in the clouds?

iv. See

1. you can tell someone that you'll take him to Busch Gardens
2. but if you don't know where it is
3. if you can find it on the map
4. if you don't know the address
5. then you can't take him there

v. And what even is heaven?

- vi. Is it a place where we play the harp for eternity in the clouds?
- vii. That's how an atheist described heaven to me
 1. That since that is what heaven is
 2. that he is not interested in going there
 3. because it seemed boring to him

viii. Where and what even is heaven?

b. Christ's definition

i. Christ has the answer – Read v.2

ii. Exposition

1. First Jesus says, 'my father's house'.
2. What is the father's house?
 - a. Back in John 2:16
 - b. when Jesus was cleaning the temple of merchants
 - c. He said, 'stop making my father's house a place of business.'
 - d. So in one sense
 - e. the temple is the Father's house

3. However

- a. Hebrews 9:23-24 makes further explanation concerning the temple,
- b. 23 Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

- c. 24 For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;
 - 4. What the author of Hebrews is saying here
 - a. is that the temple is merely a copy
 - b. therefore it needed to be cleansed with sacrifices
 - 5. But what is it a copy of?
 - a. Verse 24 explains
 - i. that Christ didn't just enter the temple which is a copy of the true one
 - ii. but into heaven itself
 - iii. The temple is merely a copy of heaven itself
 - iv. The father's house is heaven.
 - v. But then what is Jesus' father's house?
 - vi. The end of verse 24 says that the Father's house is 'the presence of God'.
 - vii. Heaven is not the finest resorts on earth
 - 1. nor being with family forever
 - viii. Heaven is wherever God is
 - ix. For the Christian
 - 1. if God is not there
 - 2. It's not heaven
 - 3. It is God *himself*
 - a. That makes it heaven
 - 6. That is where Jesus went
 - a. His Father's house
 - i. And the author of Hebrews adds
 - 1. That Jesus went to the Father's house *for us*
- c. Jesus' going was for us
 - i. That is why Jesus tells them
 - 1. That heaven is full of many dwelling places
 - 2. There will be more than enough for room for everyone who goes there
 - 3. Because Jesus himself went there and prepared the place for the disciples
 - 4. for every single believer
 - ii. So does this mean that Jesus is going to go back to his carpentry days
 - 1. and spend all of his time in heaven building us rooms to live in?
 - 2. Is Jesus building your bathroom
 - 3. furnishing your kitchen island
 - 4. and doing the drywall as we speak?
 - 5. Not exactly
 - iii. You see the way Jesus went and prepared heaven for believers
 - 1. is not through brick and mortar
 - 2. wood and saw
 - 3. but rather

- 4. his flesh and blood
- iv. Hebrews 10:19-22 says
 - v. 19 Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.
 - 1. Jesus prepared heaven
 - a. the presence of God for us
 - b. through his flesh and blood
 - c. It is through the cross and his resurrection
 - d. that Jesus prepared heaven for us
 - 2. So Jesus isn't abandoning the disciples
 - a. He is actually leaving for their benefit
 - b. And not only is Jesus going to prepare heaven for believers
 - c. he's also coming back to take them there with him
 - d. Read v.3
- d. Application
 - i. What an incredible promise to believers that Jesus makes
 - ii. That we don't have to fear or worry in life
 - iii. because Jesus promised to go to heaven
 - iv. in order to bring us there with him
 - v. and he did this through the cross and his resurrection!
 - vi. That we get to be with Jesus forever in His Father's house
 - 1. Where there is plenty of room
 - 2. For everyone who believes!
 - vii. Trust Christ alone because He knows where heaven is and will take us there
- e. What about other religions?
 - i. However, there is a problem here
 - ii. You see
 - 1. many religions
 - 2. also claim to bring us to heaven
 - 3. Islam
 - 4. Catholicism
 - 5. Hinduism, etc.
 - 6. If they can also bring us to heaven
 - 7. what's so special about Jesus?
 - iii. We hinted at this earlier
 - 1. but you can only get to a place
 - 2. if you know where it is
 - 3. If I said, I want to go to Aruba
 - a. a beautiful Caribbean island
 - b. but I don't know where it is on the map
 - c. then I can't go there!

- iv. Jesus explained that heaven is his Father's house
 - 1. which is the presence of God
 - 2. The only way one knows where the presence of God is
 - a. is if one has actually been there before
- v. What did John say earlier in chapter 1 verse 1 and 2?
 - 1. 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.
- vi. And John 1:18
 - 1. 18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.
- f. Christ alone has been in the presence of God
 - i. before the world existed
- g. Christ alone was in the bosom of the Father
- h. Christ alone has seen God
- i. Christ alone knows where and what heaven is because he has already been there
 - i. And he has already been there
 - ii. because Jesus is God
 - iii. Only God knows where heaven is
 - 1. because heaven is the presence of God
 - 2. and Jesus is God.
- j. These false religions claim to take you to heaven
 - i. but they all have the wrong address
 - ii. So how can you trust them?
 - iii. Muhammad
 - iv. Buddha
 - v. and any other false religion have never been to heaven before
 - vi. They're not from there
 - vii. They were never in the beginning with the Father
 - viii. They were never in the bosom of the Father
 - ix. They have never even seen the Father
 - x. Except Christ alone
 - xi. Christ alone is from heaven
- k. Illustration
 - i. When my wife and I were on vacation years ago
 - 1. we were on a cruise in the Caribbean
 - ii. We were in Cozumel Mexico
 - 1. and of all the interesting excursions
 - a. scuba diving
 - b. ATV riding
 - c. Swimming with sting rays
 - d. Being food lovers
 - i. we chose the taco excursion
 - iii. Basically what it was
 - 1. Was that a local tour guide

2. was going to take us around the area
3. and take us to the best taco places.
- iv. We could have asked the Filipino sailors on the ship
 1. we could have asked the captain
 2. we could have asked the fellow cruisers:
 - a. doctors
 - b. scientists
 - c. scholars
 - d. the greatest genius' on board
 - e. where are the best tacos in Cozumel?
- v. But I didn't trust any one of them
- vi. Why?
- vii. Well as we were on this tour with the our guide
 1. he explained that he actually lived here.
 2. So not only was our guide a local
 3. he literally lived there!
 4. When we got to Cozumel
 5. he literally got up out of bed
 6. to go take us around what was basically his hometown!
 7. He knew all the best taco spots
 8. because he was *from* there.

I. Application

i. Church

1. Christ alone is from heaven
 - a. so you can trust him to take you there
 2. If you're feeling confused
 - a. Afraid
 - b. or worried about he future
 - c. trust Him
 - d. because He knows where we are going
 3. He alone can take us to the Father
 - a. because that is His home and because of Him
 - b. it our home too forever
 4. Never be afraid
 5. because Christ alone knows where we are going
 - a. heaven to be with him forever.
 6. If you're wondering, 'I don't know were I am going in life'
 7. Or, , 'what's going to happen?'
 8. just remember that you are going to be with Jesus forever
 9. Trust Christ alone because he alone can take us to heaven
2. Christ alone provides the way to heaven (v.3-6)
 - a. The correct address is not enough
 - i. You might know where a place is
 - ii. You might even have the correct address

- iii. But if you don't know *how* to get there
 - 1. if you don't know the way
 - 2. then you still can't get there
 - iv. It's one thing to know that the location of heaven
 - 1. lies in the presence of God
 - 2. Getting there is a whole 'nother question
 - b. Christ alone knows where heaven is
 - i. and also how to get there
 - ii. He knows the way to get there
 - iii. In fact Christ already told them many times before
 - 1. the way to heaven
 - iv. He already told them that He was going to Jerusalem
 - 1. to die on the cross
 - 2. and rise again on third day
 - 3. to accomplish salvation for all who believe in him!
 - v. This is why Jesus says in v.4 (read).
 - vi. This was not a mystery to them
 - 1. this was already made known to them
 - vii. They already know the way
 - 1. but they were so afraid
 - 2. and worried
 - 3. because of the circumstances
 - 4. that they became blinded
 - c. This is why Thomas says in v.5 (read)
 - i. Even though Jesus already told them
 - 1. both where heaven is
 - 2. and how to get there
 - 3. their fear has blinded them from what Jesus told them
 - d. And so instead of rebuking the disciples harshly here Jesus comforts their hearts with one of the most powerful verses in all of scripture (read v.6).
 - i. Usually when someone gives you directions
 - 1. or nowadays Google Maps or Waze
 - 2. the app will tell you on which street to turn
 - 3. where to keep going straight
 - 4. and where to stop right?
 - ii. That's not what Jesus does here
 - 1. He doesn't give the disciples directions of
 - 2. do this or that
 - 3. fast this many times a day
 - 4. or pray in this area rather than the other
 - 5. No Jesus tells them 'I am the directions to heaven.'
 - iii. It's odd isn't it?
 - 1. How can a person be directions to a place?
 - 2. If someone asked me how do I get to Chick Fil-A

3. and I told them 'I am the way to Chick Fil-A' they would think I'm crazy!
 - iv. But when we realize that Heaven
 1. is no mere place
 2. Heaven is the very presence of God where believers dwell with him forever
 3. that we start to remember
 4. that heaven is a perfect place
 5. God is a holy God
 - e. Requirements to enter heaven
 - i. This is why when Jesus preached the sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:48
 - ii. He said, ' 48 "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.'
 - iii. In order to enter heaven
 - iv. you need to be perfect as God is perfect says Jesus
 - v. 'But that's impossible!'
 1. you might think!
 2. No one is perfect
 3. and everyone is a sinner according to God's word!
 - vi. That's right
 - vii. And that's exactly why Jesus is the way to heaven
 1. Jesus being God in the flesh
 2. lived a perfect life on earth
 3. and offered his righteous life on the cross
 4. as the substitute for sinners like me and everyone who ever lived!
 5. And when He rose again
 - a. He demonstrated that the Father accepted his sacrifice
 - b. and everything that Jesus said was true
 6. And Jesus offers this perfect sacrifice that saves you from judgement
 - a. as a free gift to anyone who believes in him!
 - b. All you have to do to accept this free gift
 - i. Is not by doing good works
 - ii. But by faith alone
 - iii. That salvation is through Christ alone!
 7. If you are listening to this today
 - a. Christ alone is the way to God
 - b. There is no other way!
 - c. There is no other religion
 - d. no other set of good works
 - e. except the perfect work of Christ that saves
 - f. and He offers this is a free gift to be accepted by faith alone
 - g. to anyone who believes!
 - h. Christ alone is the directions to heaven!
 - i. Christ alone is the way!
- f. But wait there's more!
 - i. Jesus says I am the way,
 - ii. but he also says 'and the truth, and the life.'

- iii. What does that mean?
 - 1. Jesus is the truth because He alone reveals God
 - 2. Again John 1:18 says
 - 3. 18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.
 - 4. Christ alone is the truth about God
 - a. because Christ alone reveals who God is
 - b. because He himself is God!
- iv. Jesus is the life
 - 1. meaning He himself is the source of life.
 - 2. John 1:4 says, 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.
- v. This is why Christ alone is the way
 - 1. because He himself is the very source of life!
- vi. If water is what you need to live
 - 1. or else you'll die
 - 2. Jesus is the only source of water
 - 3. that people may drink from and live live!
 - 4. This is why Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4:13-14,
 - 5. 13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."
- vii. Church this is why Christ alone is the way
 - 1. because Christ alone is the truth
 - 2. and Christ alone is the life!
- viii. This is why Jesus says, 'no one comes to the Father but through me.'
- ix. All the different religions get the address of heaven wrong
- x. So you know what that means?
- xi. That means they also get the directions wrong
- xii. Catholics say do the rosary
- xiii. Muslims say make a pilgrimage to Mecca
- xiv. and Hindus say achieve Moksha
- xv. Which directions is right?
- xvi. None of them
 - 1. because they all lead to the wrong address: hell.
- xvii. When Jesus said that no one comes to the Father except through me
 - 1. he made not an inclusive
 - 2. but exclusive claim
 - 3. that there is only one correct way to heaven
 - 4. and thus he also condemned every other religion in the world by saying this
 - 5. Arguably the most offensive and dangerous bible verse in existence
 - 6. Jesus would not be very popular today
 - a. Unless one puts their faith alone in Christ alone
 - b. they are going to hell

7. When you realize that Christ alone is the way to God
 - a. then you also realize that people need to hear the gospel
 - b. to be saved from judgement
 - c. because Christ alone is our high priest

g. Exposition

- i. That is why Hebrews 4:14-16 says,
- ii. 14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. 16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
 1. The author of Hebrews was teaching
 - a. that Christ alone is our high priest
 - b. Christ alone is our mediator
 - c. There is no other mediator
 - d. not Mary
 - e. not the pope
 - f. not a priest
 - g. Not Muhammad
 - h. except Christ alone!
 2. Christ alone is our high priest
 - a. who sympathizes and cares what we are going through
 - b. Therefore come with confidence
 - i. to Christ alone to receive grace
 - c. Come with confidence
 - i. to Christ alone
 - ii. to receive forgiveness of sins
 - d. And come with confidence
 - i. to Christ alone to commune with God

h. Application

- i. Church this is why we trust Christ alone
 1. He is *the* only way
 2. *the* only truth
 3. and *the* only life.
- ii. No one comes to God the Father
 1. except through Christ alone
 2. because he alone is our high priest
 3. he alone is our mediator before God
 4. We trust Christ alone because he alone provides the way to heaven
(Repeat)

3. Conclusion

- a. In conclusion
- b. I want to finish how that tour with our local Mexican tour guide went

- c. It was phenomenal
- d. Not only did he know the place like the back of his hand
 - i. because he was from there
 - ii. and he lived there
- e. He knew the way
 - i. to each and every taco spot he wanted to take us
 - ii. He would take us perfectly through every corner
 - iii. and every turn to the most delicious tacos my wife and I ever had
- f. He took us to the most authentic places
 - i. where the locals were preparing the tacos
 - ii. and handmaking them
 - iii. he introduced us to a tasty drink that we never heard
 - iv. before called Chaya which is a tree spinach
- g. And finally he took us to a beautiful beach
 - i. where we relaxed and enjoyed the view
 - ii. He clearly knew the way to where he was taking us
- h. However
 - i. the sobering reality set in
 - ii. when some child beggars approached us
- i. After enjoying a beautiful tour of the local streets
 - i. Eating the best tacos in the planet
 - ii. and enjoying the beach that felt like heaven
 - iii. we were suddenly reminded
 - iv. that as incredible things can be here on earth
 - v. this is not heaven
 - vi. This is not our home
- j. Home is where God is
 - i. And I pray that we remember
 - ii. that Christ alone knows where heaven is
 - iii. and He alone knows the way there
 - iv. and is taking those who believe in Him with him
 - v. Let's pray