

We have been looking at the reformation truths- By grace alone - By Faith Alone. Today we look at Christ Alone.

*Ephesians 2:8* For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: We saw that it was grace alone that saved me. I didn't seek the Lord, no He came to seek and save the Lost. I contributed nothing to my salvation. It was a free gift It was planned long before even the foundation of the World. Through Faith – Saving Faith a free gift. He enabled my eyes to see my hard heart to believe. If it were not for saving faith freely given, I'd still be lost.

**Galatians 3:10-14** For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. [11] But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. [12] And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. [13] **Christ hath** redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: [14] That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

**Salvation is in Christ alone.** Faith in Christ alone removes the curse of the Law.

1. We are all by nature dead in sins; — We needed to be redeemed. Understand we were slaves to sin. Christ purchased us not with silver or Gold, but with His own precious blood. He purchased us out from the Curse of the Law. *2 Corinthians 5:21* For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. He who knew no sin, He who is totally innocent. Died that substitutory death. I deserved death I was the one whoshould have died because I was not inovent , I was not without sin. But Oh such love, while I was still in sin Christ died for me on the cross.
2. spiritual life is laid up for sinners in Christ alone; He is the fountain of life;— *Romans 8:2* For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. The Life in Christ has justified me. My hope in in Christ alone, In Him I walk in newness of life.

3. in order to receive benefit from Christ men must come to him by faith, and believe: believing is coming;— We looked at saving Faith last time. How can someone say they have faith but never come. Jesus said come unto me all ye that are burdained and heavy laden and I will give you rest. He is the source. He alone gives rest, He alone washes sins away, He alone gives peace, He alone is the perfect lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.
4. that the real reasons why men do not come to Christ, and consequently die in their sins, is their want of will to come. **It is not God's unwillingness to receive.** *John 6:37-40 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. [38] For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. [39] And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. [40] And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

This is the glorious gospel of the blessed God, — that everyone, who looks to Christ with the **eye of faith**, hath everlasting life, and though his body may die, yet even for that there is everlasting life too, for Christ will raise him up again at the last day, **Oh, that you would all believe on Jesus Christ and so find that life eternal!**

Can you see the thread, Grace opens our eyes, the free gift, Faith is imparted 'saving faith,' and we come to Christ the saviour. Christ alone is the one who gave grace and gave faith.

**There is a very moving story I read** - THE DEATH OF MRS. SHERMAN in 1848.

A Lady who truly had come to faith in Christ. When she was just 22 years old she was involved in a visiting group to the poor and needy. Her visiting took her to a 90 year old lady who had never been to church, yet was willing to listen. But she felt unqualified, what could she say, how would she teach her. So she began to search the scriptures, and began to pray for help to bring life and light to this old lady who was so open to hear. Divine light was shed upon her soul, she saw, as in a sunbeam, the substitution of Christ, and his perfect atonement for sin, laying a safe foundation for her hope. By faith she embraced this gospel remedy, and fell

down at the footstool of mercy, to bedew with tears of joy the spot at which she had sought for illumination, with a broken heart.

Now she went to her aged inquirer with new zeal, love, and knowledge. Twice a week, for four years, she continued her visits, pouring the light of Christ's gospel into a mind which had been closed against it by prejudice and ignorance during a long life. yet the gospel from the loving Martha's lips penetrated, enlightened, and saved that soul; and she died at ninety-three, in the full prospect of eternal life, exclaiming to her devoted teacher, "Then there is hope for me, Miss!" Mrs. Sherman spoke to others her whole life, but she herself had truly come the Lord. She knew He salvation was in Christ Jesus. It is so powerfully reflected in what happened next.

Se became ill and went to the doctor. After an interview with Dr. Moore, at Hastings, on the 10th of February, her husband had the affecting duty to announce to her that the sickness was unto death, and that the physician thought the sooner she was at home the better.

With many struggles between affection and fidelity, he accomplished his painful task. But to his astonishment, she received the news as a relief to her spirit; and, after a few yearnings over her husband and children, **wept tears of joy that her pilgrimage was about to close.** "How soon does he expect me to leave you?" was her calm inquiry. "It is quite uncertain; but you may linger until April or May," was the reply. **"I thank God!" she exclaimed; "heaven is nearer than I expected."**

On February 12th, she returned home, and, amid many alternations, continued to cheer all around her by her devotion, patience, and cheerfulness. At her request, her friends and classes came to see her in groups; all who were present on those occasions, will remember her smile and her few words of love to each, as she shook them by the hand. Oh, it was a delightful sight, while all around were deeply affected at their anticipated loss, **to behold her calm spirit bidding them farewell,** as if she were about to start for a short journey and soon to return!

She was favored with many visits from the elders and from ministers, and especially from her kind friend, the Rev. George Clayton, who, at her request, continued them until she needed them no more.

## In Christ Alone

On the 17th of May, it was evident that death was approaching; but, to the surprise of all, she rallied again, and slept tolerably well during the night. About twelve o'clock on the 18th, no doubt could remain what the result must soon be. The struggle for breath, the excessive pain in the side, and the convulsive agony of the whole frame, were fearful; **but the celestial joy within surpassed the expectations of all.** To the last, her intellect was unimpaired, and her speech sufficiently loud to be heard. "The long looked-for hour is come, my dear," said her husband. "It is," she replied, "blessed be my Savior!" "You have long professed that Christ was precious, is he precious to you now?" Lifting up her almost fleshless arms and hands, like the wings of a bird ready to fly, she let them fall on the bed, and exclaimed, "Infinitely! infinitely!" "Have you, my precious one, any consciousness of the immediate presence of Jesus Christ?" Pausing a moment, she replied, "No; I do not know what that is, my consciousness is the consciousness of faith. I know that he is with me by the support and deep consolations he pours into my soul; but I shall soon know what it is, for I shall be with him, and be like him." "Then, like David, you can say, you fear no evil in the dark valley?" She replied, "The valley is very long—but not dark, for he is with me in it, his rod and staff comfort me." "Then you can bear testimony to your children, that a life spent in the service of God is a most pleasant and profitable life?"

"What now, when earth is vanishing, is your sole dependence for acceptance with God at the great day?" "Only the perfect and finished righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Nothing in my hand I bring;

Simply to the cross I cling."

Many other precious sentences and words fell from her lips; but these will be enough to show the fullness of her joy, and what an abundant entrance was given her into the kingdom of her God and Savior.

One day her husband asked her what message he should carry from her to the people when she was taken from them; her brief answer was, "Tell them to love

Christ and one another, to labor for souls, and exhibit holiness—then they must be happy."

**She knew Christ. Oh to know Him this is eternal life.**

Christianity without a knowledge of Christ is like a phone without a battery and sim card. All endeavors, whatever they may be, will be in vain without Christ. But let me not be misunderstood. It is not the mere knowing Christ's name that I mean; it is knowing His mercy, grace, and power. It is not merely the hearing of the ear, but by the experience of your hearts. It is knowing Him as your peace and strength, your life Paid consolation, your Physician and Shepherd, your Savior and your God.

**In Christ alone all fulness dwells** (Col 1:19). In Him alone there is full supply of all that we require for the necessities of our souls. Of ourselves we are all poor, empty creatures; empty of righteousness and peace; empty of strength, and comfort; empty of courage and patience; empty of power to stand, or go on, or make progress in this evil world. **It is in Christ alone that all these things are to be found; grace, peace, wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.**

**It is in proportion to our dependance upon Him that we are strong Christians.** It is only when self is nothing and Christ is all our confidence that we are armed for the battle of life, Only in Christ shall overcome.

To live on Christ, to draw all from Christ, to do all in the strength of Christ, to be ever looking unto Christ, this is the secret of spiritual life.

**Christ Jesus is all we need.** Go to Christ then and find all you will ever need. Do you need a friend? He is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother (Pro 18:24). Do you feel unworthy because of your sins? Fear not: His blood cleanseth from all sin. Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool (Isa 1:18).

**Christ says, Come unto me.** Then He says, him that cometh I will in no wise cast out. He can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, for He suffered Himself, being tempted.

Surely we will be without excuse if you turn away from such a Savior and Friend as this. If you love life, seek to know Jesus Christ, the only knowledge worth having.

In Christ Alone are we safe. What a gracious saviour. What a faithful friend.  
Don't delay one moment longer Come unto Him Bow your heart and knee and ask  
for His cleansing, ask Him to make you a new creation in Christ Jesus. May you  
know Him the only true and living God.

In Christ alone, my hope is found  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This Cornerstone, this solid ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My Comforter, my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand

No power of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

Amen.