

INTRODUCTION

1. There is only one Savior.
2. There are others who have claimed to be a savior.
3. In fact, there were more than 20 who made this claim in history.
4. The ones you're more familiar with are Buddha, Krishna, and Mohammed.
5. But there were others like Adad of Assyria, Adonis, son of the virgin Io of Greece, Alcides of Thebes, Baal and Taut of Phoenicia, Bali of Afghanistan, Beddru of Japan¹ and the list goes on.
6. In the seventeenth century there was Ann Lee (1736–1784), who was the founder and leader of

¹ https://www.bibliotecapleyades.net/biblianazar/esp_biblianazar_16.htm

the Shakers. Lee's followers referred to her as "Mother", believing that she was the female incarnation of Christ on Earth.²

7. In the 19 hundreds there were:
8. Sun Myung Moon (1920–2012), who believed by members of the Unification Church to be the Messiah and the Second Coming of Christ, fulfilling Jesus' unfinished mission.
9. Jim Jones (1931–1978), founder of Peoples Temple, who claimed to be the reincarnation of Jesus, Many of you may recall that he organized a mass murder suicide at Jonestown, Guyana on November 18, 1978.
10. Another was Yahweh ben Yahweh (1935–2007), who was born as Hulon Mitchell Jr., a black nationalist and separatist who created the Nation of Yahweh in 1979 in Liberty City, Florida. His self-proclaimed name means "God, Son of God". In 1992, he was convicted of conspiracy to commit

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_people_claimed_to_be_Jesus

murder and sentenced to 18 years in prison.³

11. And the list continues and will even increase as we approach the end of the world according to Matthew 24.
12. But even though the list is long, the Bible says there is only one Savior and it is the Lord Jesus Christ.
13. In John 14:6 (NASB) Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.
14. Peter said in Acts 4:12 (NASB) And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”
15. As we have been talking about the Gospel, we have learned that the Gospel is about Jesus Christ!
16. There is no Gospel apart from Him.

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_people_claimed_to_be_Jesus

17. Ulrich Zwingli said, “We know from the Old and New Testaments of God that our only comforter, redeemer, savior, and mediator with God is Jesus Christ, in whom and through alone we can obtain grace, help and salvation, and besides from no other being in heaven or on earth.”⁴
18. And when we talk about salvation, it is only through Jesus Christ whereby we are saved.
19. It is Sola Christus.
20. Justification comes from God’s grace alone (*sola gratia*) and is ours through faith alone (*sola fide*). But we cannot miss that the ground of our being declared righteous by God is due to the work of Christ alone (*solus Christus*).⁵
21. According to Scripture Jesus was the Prophet to come.

⁴ Pickowicz, Nate. Why We're Protestant: An Introduction to the Five Solas of the Reformation (p. 91). UNKNOWN. Kindle Edition.

⁵ [Tabletalk Magazine, August 2009: The Money Issue](#) 2009 : 48. Print.

22. Deuteronomy 18:15 (NKJV) “The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear.
23. The Samaritan woman said to Jesus as He uncovered the sin in her life in John 4:19 (NKJV) “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.
24. Jesus was also the Messiah the Jewish people were looking for and many missed.
25. Again the Samaritan woman told the people in the city in John 4:28-29 (NKJV) The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, 29 “Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?”
26. One of His disciples named Andrew understood this and went to his brother Simon (Peter).
27. John 1:40-41 (NASB) One of the two who heard John speak and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He found first his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the

Messiah” (which translated means Christ).

28. Another one of His disciples, Philip, said in John 1:45 (NASB) to his friend Nathanael, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”
29. The Bible also declares Jesus to be the Savior of the world.
30. The Samaritans said after hearing and believing in Him in John 4:42 (NASB) and they were saying to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world.”
31. The Roman Catholic church believed many things that were true about Jesus except for one thing: That He ALONE is the Savior.
32. Catholicism does not affirm that [salvation] comes through Christ alone. Rather, they teach that there

exists a number of other persons and processes to aid in the salvation of the believer⁶ like the Mass, the Treasury of Merit, the Virgin Mary, and the Pope.

33. On May 7, 2001, Pope John Paul II told 2000 youth gathered at the Greek-Melkite Cathedral of Damascus that “you cannot be a Christian if you reject the Church founded on Jesus Christ.”⁷
34. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, [it says regarding the Mass] “The sacrifice of Christ and the sacrifice of the Eucharist are one single sacrifice: In this divine sacrifice which is celebrated in the Mass, the same Christ who offered himself once in a bloody manner on the altar of the cross is contained and is offered in an unbloody manner” (§1367).
35. In other words, during the worship service—the Mass—the bread and wine (Eucharist) are believed to be transformed into the “living and glorious” body

⁶ Pickowicz, Nate. *Why We're Protestant: An Introduction to the Five Solas of the Reformation* (p. 96).

UNKNOWN. Kindle Edition.

⁷ Rick Jones, *Understanding Roman Catholicism*, p.23.

and blood of Jesus Christ.

36. This is known as the doctrine of transubstantiation.
37. Transubstantiation teaches that Christ “is present in a true, real, and substantial manner: his Body and his Blood, with his soul and his divinity” (§1413).
38. Upon the priest’s command, the bread and wine are transformed into Christ, wherein He is re-offered up as a sacrifice for sin.
39. However, Hebrews 9:26 tells us that Christ has already appeared “to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself,” and “having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God” (10:12).
40. The Bible teaches that the once-for-all-sacrifice of Christ is enough to atone for all sins—past, present, and future.⁸

⁸ Pickowicz, Nate. *Why We're Protestant: An Introduction to the Five Solas of the Reformation* (p. 97). UNKNOWN. Kindle Edition.

41. The Catholic Church teaches there is another process in providing salvation and that's the Treasury of Merit.
42. One of the most common practices of Catholics is to entreat the help of saints who have passed on, in hopes of obtaining grace through the benefits of their extra works.
43. The treasury of merit is the super-abundant store of righteousness and good works belonging to Christ, the Virgin Mary, and the saints. The treasury of merit is filled with the merit of Christ and Mary (who were sinless), and the saints, who had more than enough merit to enter heaven themselves—they had earned more spiritual rewards than they needed. This merit is now available to others to “supplement” their own meritorious works.⁹
44. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “This treasury includes as well the prayers and good works of the Blessed Virgin Mary. They are truly immense, unfathomable, and even pristine in

⁹ <https://www.gotquestions.org/treasury-of-merit.html>

their value before God. In the treasury, too, are the prayers and good works of all the saints, all those who have followed in the footsteps of Christ the Lord and by his grace have made their lives holy and carried out the mission in the unity of the Mystical Body.”¹⁰

45. Catholicism also teaches that salvation is through Christ and the Virgin Mary.
46. Roman Catholic dogma teaches that Mary was born “preserved immune from all stain of original sin” (§491), that she was miraculously assumed into heaven without dying (§966), and currently intercedes for the Church, bringing “the gifts of eternal salvation” to believers, and functions as our “Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatrix” (§969).¹¹
47. Last Catholic teaching says that the Pope aids in our salvation.

¹⁰ <https://www.gotquestions.org/treasury-of-merit.html>

¹¹ Pickowicz, Nate. Why We're Protestant: An Introduction to the Five Solas of the Reformation (p. 99). UNKNOWN. Kindle Edition.

48. According to the Catholic church, the Pope is the vicar or substitute or representative of Christ.
49. He has full authority of all the churches.
50. They believe the first Pope was Peter and then by succession came each pope up through today with Pope Francis.
51. But whatever the Pope decrees is infallible and spoken as if it came from God Himself.
52. Pope Francis said, “Dear friends, let us ask the Lord, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, for the grace to never fall into the temptation of thinking we can make it without others, that we can get along without the Church, that we can save ourselves alone, of being Christians of the laboratory. On the contrary, you cannot love God without loving your brothers, you cannot love God outside of the Church; you cannot be in communion with God without being so in the

Church.”¹²

53. So in other words, you cannot be a Christian apart from the Catholic church.
54. The Catholic Catechism says “Basing itself on Scripture and Tradition, the Council teaches that the Church, a pilgrim now on earth, is necessary for salvation,” (CCC 846).
55. In Roman Catholicism that which is necessary for salvation includes the church (CCC 846), baptism (CCC 1257), penance (CCC 980), sacraments (CCC 1129), service and witness to the faith (CCC 1816), keeping the ten commandments (CCC 2036 and 2070), and detachment from riches (CCC 2556).¹³
56. The distinguishing mark of Martin Luther’s theology was what he called “the theology of the cross.”

¹²

<https://www.inquisitr.com/1321037/pope-francis-decrees-that-christian-salvation-is-only-through-the-roman-catholic-church/>

¹³ <https://carm.org/cut-catholic>

57. In short, it was a biblical worldview built on the notion that all of life, all of theology, all of existence, all of our knowledge of God, and all of salvation must be viewed through Christ's work on the cross.

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58. Similarly, the apostle Paul declared, "For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:2).

59. It is all about Christ, and Christ alone.

60. He is our Prophet, He is our Priest, and He is our King.

61. "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

62. So the Reformers recognized that the Roman Catholic system presented many affronts to the work of Christ—opposition that needed to be

¹⁴ Pickowicz, Nate. Why We're Protestant: An Introduction to the Five Solas of the Reformation (p. 103). UNKNOWN. Kindle Edition.

countered in order to preserve the true, biblical gospel.¹⁵

63. That is the purpose of the 5 solas.

64. Now as we look at Sola Christus, there are two major teachings that the reformers taught concerning salvation and they had to do with The Person of Christ and the Work of Christ.

65. And all was based on Sola Scriptura, Scripture alone not the Catholic Church.

66. Notice first...

LESSON

I. The Person of Christ (Who He Is)

A. He is God

According to the Bible...

¹⁵ Pickowicz, Nate. Why We're Protestant: An Introduction to the Five Solas of the Reformation (p. 103). UNKNOWN. Kindle Edition.

1. He pre-existed (John 1:1; 8:58)
2. He is co-equal with the Father (John 1:1; 10:30)
3. He is co-Creator of the universe (John 1:3; Col.1:15-18; Heb.1)
4. He is superior to angels (Heb.1:5-14)
5. He is transcendent above all creation; He is the uncreated One (John 8:58)
6. He forgives sin - an act reserved only for God (Mark 2:1-7)
7. He spoke with authority (Mat.7:29)
8. He demonstrated the power of God (Mark 4:36-41)
9. He was worshiped as God (Mat.2:2; 14:33; John 9:35-38; 20:28; Titus 2:13)

B. He was a Man

1. He was born of the virgin Mary (Mat.1:18-21)
2. He was born of the Holy Spirit (Mat.1:18)
3. He was without sin (2 Cor.5:21; 1 Pet.2:22; 1 Jn.3:5)
4. He was fully human in every way (He worked, sweat, ate, slept, laughed, cried, bled, died)

II. The Work of Christ (What He Has Done)

A. Jesus Accomplished the Work of Substitution

He died in the place of sinners.

1. Isaiah, speaking of Jesus, prophesied that the Messiah would be “pierced for our transgressions” and “crushed for our iniquities” (53:5)

2. Peter wrote in 1 Peter 2:24 (NASB) and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.
3. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NASB) He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

In short, Jesus died in our place, as a substitute.

B. Jesus Accomplished the Work of Redemption

Through Christ's death on the cross, He paid a ransom to the Father for us (Mark 10:45). He redeemed us.

1. In 1 Corinthians 6:20, we learn that we "have been bought with a price."
2. We owed a sin-debt to God that we could not pay; the only outcome is eternal

punishment in hell. But Jesus paid our fine—“redeemed us from the curse of the Law” (Gal. 3:13), thus securing our freedom (John 8:36; Rom. 8:2). Therefore, He has ransomed us; He has redeemed us.

C. Jesus Accomplished the Work of Propitiation

1. This has to do with satisfying God’s righteousness, including God’s anger against the sinner (1 John 2:2; 4:10).
2. Christ’s atoning sacrifice was pleasing to God, as God was able to justify the sinner “through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 3:24).
3. Whereas the blood of bulls and goats were unable to satisfy God’s wrath against sin (Heb. 9:12; 10:1-4), the sacrifice of Jesus Christ was sufficient.

D. Jesus Accomplished the Forgiveness of Sins

1. All the sacrifices, all the prayers, all the fasting, all the self-deprecation, and all the good deeds in the world cannot accomplish the forgiveness of sins.
2. Only the death of Christ can remove the guilt of sin (expiation), and reconcile us to God. Because of Christ, God has “forgiven us all our transgressions” (Col. 2:13).

E. Jesus Brought About Our Justification

1. On the cross, Christ took away the penalty of our sin debt (Col. 2:14), and was judged.
2. At the same time, His righteousness was imputed to the sinner as a gift by faith (2 Cor. 5:21).
3. Because of Christ—and Christ alone—God can forgive the sinner, thus declaring them justified.

4. Additionally, His resurrection from the grave on the third day has provided:
 - a) The proof that God has accepted His sacrifice (Rom. 3:25; cf. Isa. 53:10)
 - b) Hope for our own regeneration (1 Pet. 1:3)
 - c) Hope for our own justification (Rom. 4:25)
 - d) A model of our future bodily resurrection (1 Cor. 6:14)
 - e) Power to be granted to the believer to live righteously (Rom. 6:10-11; 8:11-13).
 - f) In short, the resurrection of Jesus Christ brings new life to all who believe—in this present life and in the life to come.

CONCLUSION

1. The testimony of Scripture is undeniable.
2. No other means or method, no other agent or savior, can provide the redemption, salvation, regeneration, justification, and resurrection needed for the believer.
3. Only Christ, and Christ alone.
4. Do you know Him today?
5. You can!
6. Repent and believe in Jesus, who He is and what He has done and God will impute Christ's righteousness to you and declare you fully forgiven, fully righteous.
7. Let's pray.