



First Christian Reformed Church of Lynden  
From Generation to Generation for the Glory of God

***God's precious and exceedingly great promises in hard times***

***Colossians 3:16*** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,  
teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom,  
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,  
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

October 31 is Reformation Day, the day Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany. This occasion gives us an opportunity to remember some of the great truths of Scripture that had been lost and were recaptured by the many great reformers God raised up. Through our devotionals this week and next I will focus on the five solas or five onlys that summarize the Reformation.

*Scripture alone* (sola Scriptura) · *Christ alone* (solus Christus) · *Grace alone* (sola gratia) · *Faith alone* (sola fide) · *God's glory alone* (soli Deo gloria).

## **Scripture**

### ***Reflections on “Christ alone” in Scripture.***

**Matthew 3:17** Behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

**Matthew 17:5** He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.”

**John 3:16-17** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

**John 7:46** The officers answered, “No one ever spoke like this man!”

**John 14:1-7** “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

**Acts 4:12** And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

**I Corinthians 2:2** For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

**Colossians 1:15-20** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

**I Timothy 2:5-6** For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

**Hebrews 1:1-3** Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

**I Peter 2:24** He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

**I Peter 3:18** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.

**I John 2:1-2** My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

**I Corinthians 15:55-56** “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”  
The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Song**

***Psalm 59:16*** But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.

[You can Google the hymn to hear it if you would like to sing along.]

### ***In Christ Alone My Hope is Found***

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.

In Christ alone! – who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save:  
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied –  
For every sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious day up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory sin’s curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine – bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me;  
From life’s first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.  
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.

(“In Christ Alone” words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend© 2002 Kingsway’s Thankyou Music, CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

## **Prayer**

***II Chronicles 7:14** If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

**Prayer:** Holy Father, grant us to see and celebrate and rejoice in the superior worth of Jesus as our only Savior and sacrifice and mediator. Grant us to see the glory of His cross and the supremacy of His victory and the treasure that is ours in knowing Him and sharing in His cross and suffering. Give us courage and confidence in our battle with sin and what has already been purchased for us by His blood. Deliver us from evil and from every evil desire, make Christ our treasure and our pure pleasure.

Christ alone is our Savior leading us to the only way to salvation.

Christ alone has paid for our sins through his death on the cross, once and for all.

Christ alone is the mediator with the Father.

Christ alone is God's solution for humanity's deepest problems.

Christ plus nothing. Christ alone.

This is the Gospel, the good news, we rejoice in it, love Him for it, worship Him because of it.

### ***Prayer of St. Patrick:***

"Christ be with me, Christ within me,

Christ behind me, Christ before me,

Christ beside me, Christ to win me,

Christ to comfort and restore me,

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,

Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,

Christ in hearts of all that love me,

Christ in mouth of friend and stranger."