

- I. Prologue: The Identity of the Son of God (1:1-18)
- II. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Public Ministry (1:19-12:50)
 - A. The Son of God Revealed (1:19-4:54)
 - B. The Son of God Rejected (5:1-12:36)
 - 1. Opposition in Jerusalem (5:1-47)
 - 2. Opposition in Galilee (6:1-71)
 - 3. Growing Opposition in Jerusalem (7:1-52)
 - 4. Settled Opposition in Jerusalem (7:53-10:39)
 - 5. Belief across the Jordan (10:40-42)
 - 6. Hardened Opposition in Jerusalem (11:1-12:36)
 - 7. The hour has come (12:20-36)
 - C. Conclusion (12:37-50)
- III. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Passion and Resurrection (13:1-20:31)
- IV. Epilogue: The Future Mission of the Son of God (21)

The Bread of Life

Gospel of John, Part XXI

John 6:22-40

Stuart W. Bryan

I. The Reformation & Scripture

One of the great battle cries of the Reformation was *sola Scriptura* – Scripture alone is the final and infallible authority for the life of the Church.

II. The Bread from Heaven

A. Introduction

B. The Setting (22-24)

C. The Dialogue (25-40)

1. Opening Question and Exhortation (25-27)

2. Follow-up Question and Response (28-29)

3. Challenge and Reply (30-33)

4. Request and Declaration (34-40)

At the beginning of this dialogue, Jesus is intentionally ambiguous; in these verses, Jesus eliminates all ambiguity and speaks plainly: *I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.* Even as a hungry man can find relief for his hunger only in food, a thirsty man in water, so the hungry and thirsty soul can only find relief in Jesus.

Is this not an astonishing claim? The food which the Son of Man will give you is Himself. He will sacrifice His own life in order that through Him you may have life (51). So what must you do? You must come to Him, you must believe in Him. But these Jews have not done that (36 cf. 26).

Why haven't they? Jesus answers by appealing to God's redemptive purposes: they have not believed because they are not part of the Father's elect. *All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.* The Father has given Jesus a people to save and a task to perform; a task that is His delight and which He will complete (38-40).

III. A Reformation Sermon

A. Sola Fide (29 cf. Rom 3:21-22; 2 Cor 5:21)

Sola Fide – _____ alone. Salvation comes to sinners through faith alone in Christ alone. *Sola fide* answers the question: *What must I do to be saved?*

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.' (Ro 1:16f)

Salvation is a gift given by God not a reward merited by man. *Faith alone* emphasizes that one's trust must be in Christ and in His work not in one's own work. *The righteousness of God* is a gift given to those who believe in Christ; it is an *alien righteousness* – the righteousness of Jesus Christ imputed to me and received by *faith alone*.

- *But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.* [Rom 3:21-22]
- *For God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.* [2 Cor 5:21]

B. Solus Christus (33, 35 cf. 2 Cor 11:2-3)

Solus Christus - _____ alone. Luther declared to his congregation as his death neared, *"I have taught you Christ purely, simply, and without adulteration!"* And Paul writes to the Corinthians, *"For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ"* (2 Cor 11:2-3).

C. Sola Gratia (35ff cf. 1 Cor 1:30-31; Eph 2:8)

Sola gratia - _____ alone. Is Christianity a religion of pure grace or is it a mixture of grace and human effort? Is man his co-savior? Does man supply faith and God reward that faith by supplying the grace of salvation? No!

- *By grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God lest any man should boast* (Eph 2:8).
- *"But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—that, as it is written, 'He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.'"* (1 Cor 1:30-31).

Saving grace is sovereign grace – salvation is the gift of God from beginning to end. *Sola gratia* answers this question: *how is it that a man turns in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ?* Is it by some power of his own will? Or is it by the grace and mercy of God?

IV. Conclusion – *solī Deo gloria!*