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**THE SOLAS OF THE REFORMATION
SOLA CHRISTUS**

Monsignor Stanislaus, Pope John Paul II's Polish secretary, tensed as the large white touring car in which they were riding turned into Saint Peter's Square. In front of him stood the Pope waving from the open-roofed vehicle to the enormous crowd filling the piazza. Though in office for only 2 1/2 years, John Paul had already won the hearts of millions.

Nevertheless, Stanislaus, seated in the rear of the vehicle, feared that the Pope was too vulnerable in such a large crowd. Just three days earlier, Monsignor Andrew Mary Deskur, a Vatican prelate, had spoken of a premonition that he had experienced. While standing before an image of the virgin, the Patron of Poland, Deskur had been overcome by fear for the Pope's life. After a moment of silent concentration, he looked upon the image of the Virgin and calmly said, "His Lady will protect him."

His name was Mehmet Ali Agca, a convicted murderer, a psychopath with terrorist training. Turkish police had orders to shoot him on sight. As soon as he got his first glimpse of the approaching Pontiff, he carefully disengaged the gun's safety mechanism. He alone heard the muffled click over the noise of the crowd.

It was a joyful day, especially for the Pope, for it was a feast day in honor of Mary, to whom John Paul was deeply devoted. When ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Krakow in 1958, he had chosen as his Episcopal coat of arms a cross with the initial "M" in honor of Mary at the foot of it. He adopted as his motto *Totus Tuus*, meaning, (with reference to Mary) "Totally yours." It was an expression of his complete consecration to the Blessed Virgin. The Pope's relationship

to Mary made her feast days special occasions for the entire Vatican staff. That day was a particularly important one: the anniversary of the first appearance of Our Lady of Fatima.

The Pope was smiling as he returned a young girl holding a balloon to her mother over the left side of the vehicle. He then moved to the opposite side of the car to greet pilgrims there. As he did, he came almost face to face with Agca.

The assassin knew he had his prey.... The first bullet broke the index finger of John Paul's left hand and continued on a deadly path through his abdomen. Another bullet passed to the Pope's right, searing his elbow. As the assault continued, two American women in the crowd were struck.

As the vehicle rushed to a waiting ambulance, Stanislaus could hear the Pontiff repeatedly pleading, "Mary, my mother Mary, my mother"

The prayer was still on John Paul's lips when he finally passed out at the Gemelli Hospital 15 minutes later. The Roman Catholic Church has a membership of 945 million people throughout the world. Its leader does not believe in Christ alone as the one he is to worship.

I will attempt to show that many of the reasons for the Reformation in the 16th century are just as valid today.

If the Reformation had not begun on October 31, 1517, would it be necessary today?

I will approach *SOLUS CHRISTUS* from

two basic categories: **Christ Alone in our Worship, and Christ Alone as our Justification.**

We have just read a story where the present Pope of the Catholic church prays to Mary as the one to heal
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him. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that for Mary to be “a fit habitation for Christ,” God decided to preserve her from the defilement of Adam’s sin. In 1854 the Church formally defined this doctrine, known as the **Immaculate Conception**.

...“We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful.”

Some modern day evangelicals have signed agreements with the Roman Church and have declared that there have been agreements between the two and that the gap that has existed between them since October 31, 1517 has diminished. Please understand that when this takes place it is the Evangelicals that have compromised,

According to Michael Horton, Associate Professor of historical theology at Westminster Theological Seminary in California and editor in chief of *Modern Reformation*. “Rome has not changed an inch on the things that really matter.” As of today the Roman Catholic Church still practices the worship of Mary. In order to justify this, they break their worship into three categories.

1. **Dulia** is the special worship, generally called veneration, given to the Angels and Saints because as friends of God they share in His excellence.

2. **Hyperdulia** is the veneration proper of the Blessed Mother alone, it is the highest form of veneration short of adoration.

3. **Latria** is the worship that is reserved for God alone.

The most common way in which Catholics venerate Mary is by saying the Rosary. Considered by the Church an “epitome of the whole Gospel,” it is a series of prayers counted on a string of beads. These are arranged in groups of ten small beads

separated by one large bead. There are five sets of these *decades*. On the large bead, the *Our Father* or *Lord’s Prayer* is said. On each of the ten small beads, Catholics pray the *Hail Mary*:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed are thou among women and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

As we have seen, the Roman Catholic Church view of Mary has digressed to the point that she is worshipped along with Christ. How are we doing as Evangelicals, let’s forget Rome and its heresies, how about us?

I would like to evaluate or look at Christ alone in two areas:

1. Preaching
2. Worship

Preaching

When we go to church what type of preaching should we hear? The National Council of Churches declares that the church should “follow the world’s agenda.” George Barna, a Christian pollster makes the following statement: “*It is critical that we keep in mind a fundamental principle of Christian communication: the audience, not the message, is sovereign.*”

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Our Purpose...

**The Purpose of
Reformed Discipleship Ministries
is to bring the truth
of the Reformation
to a discipling ministry...**

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Newsweek 1984, describing the evangelical of our day:

“They have developed a ‘pick and choose’ Christianity in which individuals take what they want and pass over what does not fit their spiritual goals, what many have left behind is a pervasive sense of sin.” According to Richard Niebuhr, we preach *“A God without wrath, brought men without sin, into a kingdom without judgment, through the ministrations of a Christ, without a Cross.”* It must be believed and understood that the Bible and preaching is *not* to teach moral lessons about how we should behave in real life. If this is what preaching is all about, then Aesop’s Fables would be a better book. All of the biblical heroes represent sinfulness, disobedience, half-heartedness and pride as well as faith and obedience. Many times we hear that the Bible is a “handbook for life.” Another is that it has the answers to every question in life if we will only study it carefully. It makes the Bible and preaching a goal of “self-improvement” and not a Bible teaching sin, repentance and a religion of the cross. In the main, religion has to do with how we cope with life here and now rather than the more important questions of truth and eternity. In short, true preaching should be to proclaim Him in His offices of Prophet, Priest and King....We need to preach Christ crucified and as having the answers to eternal damnation.

God is preached as “the man upstairs,” a “divine coach,” a “lover,” a “divine therapist, a guide hero.” Many are making Him a “divine power source,” a “political reformer,” and a “good husband.” In reality He is a God who hates sin, and is the only mediator between God and man.

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ON A PERSONAL NOTE...

This is the second **TRUTH**matters newsletter. We had great response from the first, and we look forward in continuing to send them to you in the months, and hopefully years to come.

Kay and I have been active in the lives of many people for the last few months and are looking forward to visiting other friends during the summer.

Recently, I had the honor of teaching at a summer family conference. I spoke three times on Leaving a Legacy. I found it to be fun and yet challenging to study and to present to believers how they can concentrate on leaving a legacy with their children. The main issue is that we all leave a legacy with our children, the most important aspect is *what type of legacy are we leaving*. Kay and I have dedicated ourselves to helping couples in their husband/wife relationships, and also how to be better parents. Any time we get the opportunity to be involved in the lives of younger people we always accept if at all possible.

The seminary course is completed and I hope the students learned as much as I did. I know I felt I studied harder than they did. It was a great experience for me and I hope to do it again in the near future.

This past year, I had the opportunity to lead six Bible studies per week, and I watched the men and women growing in their Christian lives, and learning the great Christian doctrines of our faith.

In the fall I have been asked to teach seven studies a week. Kay and I are attempting to think through the ramifications of teaching these seven studies. Please pray for us as we seek to make this decision.

I am always reluctant to share with our donors and friends our financial situation because I know that you hear from someone almost every day that also has financial needs. I do not like to be one of those people. But I have been challenged by the people in the above mentioned studies that I should let you know. If you don’t know that we need financial help, you won’t know to even pray about giving. So, will you pray about several things. If you are already giving, will you consider increasing your giving to us. If you are not giving, will you please pray about adding us to your giving list. Kay and I love doing ministry, we just wish that this were not a part of it...

You all have been so faithful over the years and we thank you very much.

Dr. Louis Hill

MINISTRY *update:*

Shortly after God called both my wife and myself to Himself, we were faced with a very difficult move. We had to leave our new, Reformed church family in South Carolina and start anew in the wild, untamed West. Dr. and Mrs. Hill made that transition much easier for us. Although we were grounded in the reformed teachings, our roots were strengthened and deepened because of the teachings of RDM. Louis and Kay have discipled us both in so many practical family matters. We have experienced God's truths in action in their lives, as well as in ours. Now we seek to disciple other believers, and be used of God in their lives. What an incredible mission! **To God be the glory!**

Edd & Michelle Freeman

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Historical Facts

The Dark Ages



We are familiar with the Crusades, through Robin Hood movies and other teachings. There is one Crusade that is never mentioned, especially in Rome.

The Fourth Crusade, *The Children's Crusade-1200AD*. This is one of the saddest moments in all of history. 50,000 children from France and Germany set out to fight against the Muslims. They took a vow to Innocent III that they would fight.

1. The leader of the French was Stephen, then 12 years old. Is said to have claimed that he received a message from Jesus to go and crush the “infidels.” He was encouraged by the elders around him. Supposedly 30,000 unarmed children joined in with Stephen to recover the Holy Sepulcher from the Muslims.

2. The leader of the Germans was Nicholas, then 10 years old. Nicholas is said to have received his instructions from a cross of light in the sky. Hordes of French children died of hunger and disease during their march while thousands of German youngsters froze in the Alps, and fell down the mountain sides.

Finally two ships, each holding 700 children, set sail for Jerusalem. Both ships broke apart in a storm and all 1400 hundred children drowned. There were others who found themselves in Egypt rather than Palestine and they were sold into slavery. Many were killed because they refused to accept the faith of the Muslims. Many of the German children reached Genoa, Italy, and having had no further transportation, ended up being raped or killed and none reached Jerusalem.

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We must preach the law and the gospel. Man is condemned under the law, but Christ as the lawgiver came to redeem men who are condemned. They must put their faith in Him or die in their sins, and live eternally separated from Him for all eternity.

Worship

Martin Luther believed that the second best way we have of teaching theology is the music we sing. In modern evangelicalism anyone with a guitar can teach theology. Our worship has become “me” centered. You hear people often saying or explaining how they ‘felt’ during the worship service and if the service did not make them ‘feel good’ it was not a good church service.

Christ alone in Justification

According to the Roman Catholic Church, an infant receives the benefits of Christ’s death through the sacrament of baptism:

“Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: “Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word.”

The Bible teaches that our Justification is based on Christ alone as our redeemer and that man can make no movement toward Christ because he is dead in his trespasses and sins. We believe that Baptism is an outward sign and seal of what has taken place inwardly **it does not save.**

We have, of course, looked at the role of Mary as seen by the Roman church as they regard worship, does Mary play any role in Justification in the Roman church?

“The Father of mercies willed that the Incarnation should be preceded by assent on the part of the predestined mother, so that just as a woman had a share in bringing about death, so also a woman should contribute to life. Rightly, therefore, the Fathers see Mary not merely as passively engaged by God, but as freely cooperating in the work of man's salvation through faith and obedience. For, as St. Irenaeus says, she “being obedient, became the cause of salvation for herself and for the whole human race.”

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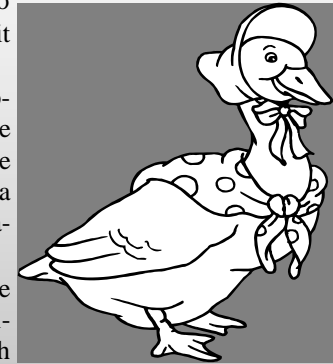
Most of us grew up with Mother Goose rhymes. Many did not make sense to us, but for some reason we learned them and later even taught them to our children. Often we saw cases of violence but since it was “Mother Goose” it had to be OK.

The average collection of 200 traditional nursery rhymes contains approximately 100 rhymes which personify all that is glorious and ideal for the child. Unfortunately, the remaining 100 rhymes harbor unsavory elements. The incidents listed below occur in the average collection and may be accepted as a reasonably conservative estimate based on a general survey of this type of literature.

8 allusions to murder (unclassified), 2 cases of choking to death, 1 case of death by devouring, 1 case of cutting a human being in half, 1 case of decapitation, 1 case of death by squeezing, 1 case of death by shriveling, 1 case of death by starvation, 1 case of boiling to death, 1 case of death by hanging, 1 case of death by drowning, 4 cases of killing domestic animals, 1 case of body snatching, 21 cases of death (unclassified), 7 cases relating to the severing of limbs, 1 case of the desire to have a limb severed, 2 cases of self-inflicted injury, 4 cases relating to the breaking of limbs, 1 allusion to a bleeding heart, 1 case of devouring human flesh, 5 threats of death, 1 case of kidnapping, 12 cases of torment and cruelty to human beings and animals, 8 cases of whipping and lashing, 3 allusions to blood, 14 cases of stealing and general dishonesty, 15 allusions to maimed human beings and animals, 1 allusion to undertakers, 2 allusions to graves, 23 cases of physical violence (unclassified). 1 case of lunacy, 16 allusions to misery and sorrow, 1 case of drunkenness, 4 cases of cursing, 1 allusion to marriage as a form of death, 1 case of scorning the blind, 1 case of scorning prayer, 9 cases of children being lost or abandoned, 2 cases of house burnings, 9 allusions to poverty and want, 5 allusions to quarreling, 2 cases of unlawful imprisonment, and 2 cases of racial discrimination.

Mother Goose could be quite violent when she had to be. More coming in later issues.

MOTHER • GOOSE



SHORTER CATECHISM

Q. 4. What is God?

A. God is a spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

Q. 5. Are there more Gods than one?

A. There is but one only, the living and true God.

Q. 6. How many persons are there in the Godhead?

A. There are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one God, and the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

Q. 7. What are the decrees of God?

A. The decrees of God are His eternal purpose according to the counsel of His will, whereby for His own glory, He hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.

Q. 8. How does God execute His decrees?

A. God executeth His decrees in the works of creation and providence.

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Many of you are thinking, surely this had to be a long time ago. Even as far back as Martin Luther...

Second Vatican Council 1963

According to the Church, *“Mary’s sufferings were so intense that they brought her to the very threshold of death. She, says the Church, “participated with Jesus Christ in the very painful act of redemption. “Mary suffered and, as it were, nearly died with her suffering Son; for the salvation of mankind she renounced her mother’s rights and, as far as it depended on her, offered her Son to placate divine justice; so we may well say that she with Christ redeemed mankind.”*

The biblical view of Justification, is that Justification is a one time event in the life of the believer. It is through Christ’s righteousness that we are declared to be righteous. This justification is by faith alone, through Christ alone, but it is not by faith that is alone.

In contrast to Rome we see that the Protestant church rests on

1. Scripture alone.
2. Christ Alone

I hope I have shown that the battle cry of *Christ Alone (Sola Christus)* is still a needful doctrine for the Protestant churches of the world.

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TRUTH*matters*



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Dr. Louis Hill, President

P.O. Box 7168 Colorado Springs, CO 80933-7168

(719) 473-5102 • Fax (719) 473-5063

<http://www.rdm.org>