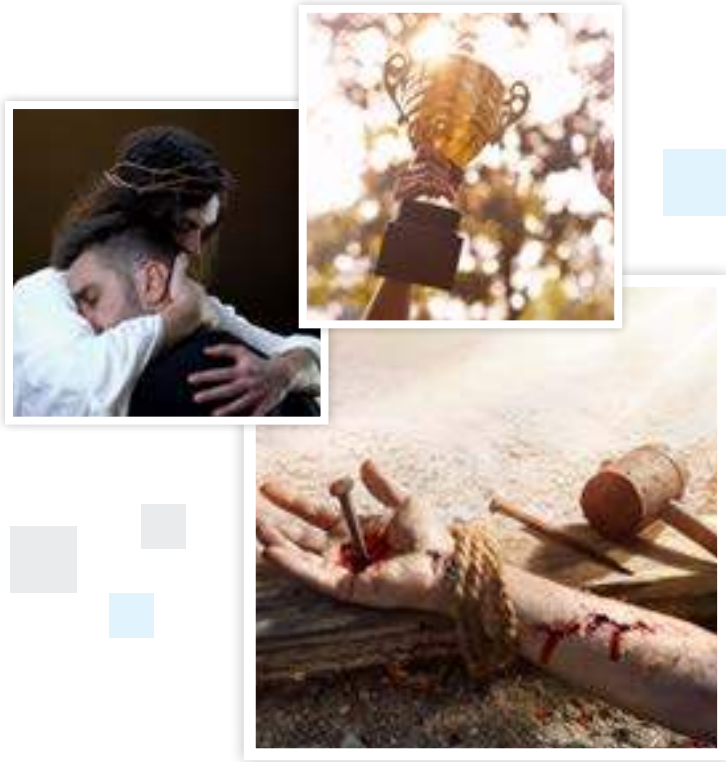


# P Protestant University



STUDY GUIDE | LESSON 4

# SOLUS CHRISTUS



Do you trust Jesus? Of course you do. But do you completely trust Jesus? You might want to think about that before answering.

Parents with young children want their children to trust them completely. The parents don't want them wondering if the parent will feed them or protect them. Parents also want their children to trust what they say. Jesus refers to us as His children and He wants us to trust Him completely for everything, including our salvation.

The Bible says a lot about what Jesus does for us and it says a lot about what we can/cannot do. Will we trust whatever it says? Let's look at some of what it says about Jesus and our righteousness.

**Can zealous people be wrong? (Romans 10:1-4)**

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**What were the zealous people in this passage doing wrong?**

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**What is it that would prevent a person from submitting to God's righteousness?**

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**Who brings us righteousness and how do we receive it?**

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**Do you want to submit to God's righteousness?**

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The Bible tells us that many religious people who want to follow His laws will not submit to God's righteousness. They want to offer at least something to their salvation. This is inherent in humanity. That's why other religions include human works in their equations. We have already talked about grace + faith + nothing else = salvation. The Bible tells us that people struggle to submit to the "nothing else."

**What does Isaiah 64:6 tell us about our righteousness?**

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**All of us are born carnal. What does the Bible say about carnal hearts in Romans 8:7?**

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**What about Jeremiah 13:23?**

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Sin has separated us from God (Isaiah 59:2) but God didn't want us to be apart from Him forever. He came up with a plan that doesn't overlook sin but allows us to come close to Him again, to be reconciled. Let's look at Colossians 1:21, 22; 2 Cor. 5:18.

**Who is the reconciler?** \_\_\_\_\_

**After being reconciled, how are we presented to God?**

**2 Cor. 5:17-21** \_\_\_\_\_

**What part do we play?** \_\_\_\_\_

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We play a big part in Jesus reconciling us and it's not a good part. We were reconciled by Jesus' death and His death happened when He took on our sins at the cross. Our sins separated us from God and the only way for us to be reconciled back to God was for the sins we committed to be paid for by Christ. We are reconciled to God in Jesus Christ.

**Luke 18:9-15 Who in the story submitted to the righteousness of God?**

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Both these men had good intentions but only one of them is saved. One man thought he had some righteousness and the other knew he didn't. Yet the one who knew he didn't have any righteousness is justified. This is because he knew his only chance for salvation was the mercy of God. He based all of his hope on the mercy of the Judge. Jesus is clearly teaching us to do the same, to place all our hope in Christ, who reconciled us to Himself.

**God sent us a message through the prophet Jeremiah.**

**Read Jeremiah 23:6.**

**What name would be given to the coming Savior?**

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**What a beautiful message! Jesus is our righteousness. This is echoed in 1 Cor. 1:30.**

**What is declared that Jesus became to us?**

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Does that sound like Jesus is enough? It surely does! Jesus is everything we need for salvation. Praise the Lord!

There is a role for us to play in reconciliation that we haven't considered yet.

## **What is stated as our role in 2 Cor. 5:20?**

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We have the privilege to share the good news of God's reconciliation through Christ with the rest of the world! This is a great honor. We know this as the great commission stated in Matthew 28:17-20. We like to look at what we are to do and can sometimes miss the part about Jesus in the great commission.

## **What does verse 18 tell us about Jesus' role in the great commission?**

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## **What is Jesus' promise at the end of the great commission?**

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**Our part is sandwiched in between Jesus. What else do we know about Jesus' role with the church in carrying out the gospel commission?**

**Eph. 5:23; Col. 1:18**

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So, Jesus 1) is the head of the church and 2) has all the power and 3) is with us. What more do we need? The early church thrived as they depended on Jesus. The church was exploding in growth despite opposition. Is it safe for us to put our total trust in Jesus as the head of the church, just as we can do for our salvation? **The answer is yes.**

**What would it look like for a church to have total trust in Jesus as the head of the church with all the power and always being present?**

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**How would the church relate to the pastor?**

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**How would the church relate to the Conference, Union, Division, and General Conference?**

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**The pastor and different layers of church leadership can be helpful, but could we rely on them more than Jesus Christ, the head of the church?**

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Do we need leaders in the various church leadership layers to go to God for us so that we know what to do, or can we go to Jesus ourselves and get the help we need? We can go to Jesus personally and as local bodies of believers. Our confidence must be in Jesus. We can't afford to place it anywhere else. The early church grew like crazy with a very limited leadership structure because they put all their trust in Jesus as their all-powerful head who was always with them. We have a much larger leadership structure and it can be easy to shift our confidence to that structure and away from Jesus, but we must place our confidence where it belongs, Jesus Christ.