

SOUTH FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Gospel Mission (4)

Date 23rd October 2022

Preacher Rev Philip Knowles Ps/Hymns 224, 474, 497, 281

Read: Acts 4:1-12 Text Acts 4:12

Title: Salvation In Christ

The account given in Acts 4, continues the scene from in the previous chapter.

In Acts 3 for over forty years a man had been incapable of walking, being lame from his mother's womb.

As two apostles, named Peter and John made their way into God's house, they witnessed to this man, sharing the good news of the gospel, and he was healed, **in the name of Jesus Christ**, proving it to be so by his standing, walking and leaping praying God, as he accompanied God's servants into the temple.

When the Lord healed the man's body physically, He also healed his soul spiritually. There were signs following the work of Christ in the life.

The responses to his healing were varied. On one hand the Lord used the miracle to call thousands to Himself.

When the multitudes became aware of the man's healing they were filled with amazement and a willingness to hear the Gospel from the lips of Peter with the result that about five thousand men believed.

But on the other hand the religious establishment were filled with the intense anger and immediately arrested the apostles

and placed them in prison overnight, bringing them forth the following day for interrogation.

Peter and John were brought before a Jewish council named the Sanhedrin. It was before such a company a wonderful opportunity was given to testify of the gospel's saving power.

The Sanhedrin council asked Peter and John "**By what power, or by what name have ye done this ?**" referring to healing of this man. Great grace was given, to preach the Gospel.

Peter, delivering in the power of the Spirit the answer demanded, in the words of **v12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**"

As the Peter and John stood before this company, they took the opportunity to declare the gospel message of salvation.

Salvation refers to pardon, the forgiveness of sin, peace with God.

The Apostle Peter presented certain truths about salvation that is found in our Lord Jesus Christ alone that must be made known today!

As we have this gospel mission and as I stand before this company, I must not waste the opportunity, but rather preach the gospel, I must declare unto you **Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**"

I FIRST, SALVATION IN CHRIST IS ESSENTIAL

Look at the words, ***whereby we must be saved***.

The word **saved** signifies “***to be rescued, delivered.***” The words refer to one who needs to be saved, rescued because of the danger they are in.

Therefore, Salvation in Christ is essential, it is necessary because men and woman need to be saved from sin power, and punishment.

However, men and woman do not see themselves in danger, or needing delivered from their sin.

They view themselves as having a natural righteous, or an earned favour with God, however God said through **Isaiah 64:6** “***we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rages...***”

the best we think we can do, is still unacceptable to God, He views it a filthy, unclean, unholy, because **Titus 3:3** teaches salvation ***is not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us....***”

Peter was preaching to people who refused to see themselves in Spiritual danger.

They claimed to have all the religion they needed. They followed daily their own practices and prayed to their own imaginary gods.

Their understanding been blinded by sin, their mind was darkened, in that they could not understand the things of God, sin had put a veil over their eyes, causing to think the path they were on would please God when in fact they were following the course of this present evil world, leading to eternal destruction.

They needed to be saved from sin's power, and punishment, delivered from eternal wrath.

However, **verse 2** gives the reaction to the gospel by the religious leader "***being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.***

Peter preached an Exalted Christ, a Risen Saviour, a Living Redeemer, a Victorious Sovereign, eternal Salvation, Full atonement.

this angered the religious groups because the Resurrection proved all that Jesus said He would do, after He died on the cross.

The resurrection testified that God had accepted the sacrifice and substitution of Jesus Christ by the shedding of His own precious blood as the payment for sin.

These religious leaders denied the resurrection, they had a religion without Christ.

All their religious practices were dead, lifeless, vain empty practises. Just going through the routines.

They were in danger themselves because they were rejecting Jesus Christ who is the eternal life of all who are rescued by Him.

The gospel preachers were on a mission to see sinners rescued from the darkness of eternal damnation.

Therefore, we have revealed a fundamental truth of the Gospel that every individual is born in sin.

We were not born naturally righteous, innocent or free from sin.

Rather, we came into this world already possessing a sinful, fallen nature, born the children of wrath even as others, the workers of disobedience, dead in trespasses and in sin.

Romans 3:10 *“There is none righteous, no, not one.”* The reason being, **Romans 3:23** *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”*

Sin is the reason sinners need to be saved.

Sin is a transgression against God, a wilful offence against His law. Eternal punishment is sure for lost sinners.

Sin brought physical and spiritual death into the world. Sin separates men from God eternally.

As a result of sin, the human nature is corrupt, it favours sin, that's why you don't have to teach a child to do wrong, it naturally does it.

You never have to teach a child to misbehave or go it's own way, because it does so by nature.

By nature the heart has no desire for God, no peace with God. And left in that sinful state, when the day appointment for your death comes there will be judgment for that sin.

Do you see you unsaved one, you need to be saved, delivered from sin.

Look unto Christ and be ye saved, He is the light of the world, the wisdom of God. His saving light shines into darkened hearts.

He alone sets sinners free from spiritual bondage, Enabling them to walk in the newness of life, and serve the true and living God.

Before you can live for Christ, Christ must first live within you. Once you have new life, then you can live life because you have life to live.

Salvation in Christ is essential.

II SECOND, SALVATION IN CHRIST IS EXCLUSIVE
"Neither is there salvation in any other ."

As Peter and John stood before the Jewish Council, not only did Peter show them they needed to be saved, but also the only one who can save.

The gospel excludes all our other man-made saviours and man-made ways of salvation but the gospel constrains

sinner to Christ as the only Deliverer of the soul – “***Neither is there salvation in any other...there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.***”

The exclusiveness of Christ alone, is in keeping with all Scripture – it is by Christ alone that salvation is found, John 14: 6 who is the way the truth and the life.

The Gospel is God's appointed and established way for fallen humanity to be saved.

This was the vital issue of the day and in any generation, who can forgive sin upon earth?

Where does the guilty sinner turn to have a perfect pardon.

How can a person have full assurance their sin is forgiven by God.

Peter did not leave his listeners in any doubt, ***for there is none other name under heaven given among men.***”

Who is Peter speaking about in verse 10 by the word name. Does he mean the name of the church? the name of the Pope? the name of the religious system?

Notice the name refers back verse 10-11 “***Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. ¹¹ This is the stone which was set***

at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.”

Peter identified the gospel of grace, which sinners need to be delivered from, is only found in Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is not one of many names or ways God reveals salvation to men and woman. Jesus Christ is the only name or only way God has revealed upon earth to be saved.

Notice the two words in **verse 12 *other***.

They are “***any other, and none other.***” ***Both words have a lesson in them.***

The first time in this verse, Peter used the word any other it means another of the same kind. Peter said “Neither is there salvation in any other,” is he saying there is none other of the same kind.

There is not another Saviour who can save. There is no other name who has power to forgive sin than Jesus Christ. There is no other the same as Christ on earth, for there is none beside Him.

The second time in this verse the word ***none other, means another of a different kind.***

There is no other name, no different name. There is not a different kind of saviour who will take you to heaven.

Oh don't believe the lie, were are all going to heaven, but we are just getting there our own way, some through church

practices, some by church traditions, some by religious works, some by having a priest say your sin is forgiven. Some still trying to discover new ways.

Oh no, Peter states there is not a different kind of Saviour, there is not a different way to heaven.

You have long been trying to find the road to heaven and you have missed it because you travel without Christ as Saviour.

There is no second name, no replacement, no second choice. The name of Jesus Christ saves all who trust in Him.

He alone is qualified to save sinners. He alone can remove the guilt of sin and give peace with God.

Christ is the only mediator between God and man, the only redeemer of God's elect, the only head of the church, there is no other name in between.

Men and woman today look to no other, pray to no other, confess sin to no other, but only to Jesus Christ and be saved.

III THIRD, SALVATION IN CHRIST IS EMPHASISED
"whereby we must be saved."

As the close of Peter words to the members of the Council, Peter urged them to turn to Jesus Christ.

He was preaching for a verdict, a result, he preached to see sinners saved from danger of sin they were in and the destruction of sin they were traveling.

Notice his haste, “whereby we must.” The word **must** means, **it is necessary**, action must be taken without delay in coming to Christ.

Again, the words emphasise or strengthen the argument, salvation is in none other, only Jesus Christ.

The same word is used of Christ in gospel ministry in **John 4:4** **“He must needs go through Samaria.”** The words **must needs** means **it is necessary**.

The reason Christ needed to travel through Samaria, taking a longer route, was to save, rescue a woman from her spiritual idolatry and sinful living.

It was necessary for Him to travel there for one soul.

it is necessary we have this gospel mission, even if only one soul is challenged about their sin, awaken and comes to Christ, there is rejoicing in heaven over one soul who receives Christ’s as their only Saviour.

Furthermore, in **John 3**, Christ said Himself to Nicodemus, in **John 3:7** **“Ye must be born again.”** It’s language to refers to new life. When a child is born from the womb, new life comes into the world.

Jesus is teaching when a sinner comes to faith in Him, born again, they receive new life, spiritual life, life from heaven.

Peter urges his hearers, you must, come to Jesus Christ alone who forgives sin.

Likewise in this gospel mission, we urge you to be saved turn to Jesus the only name under heaven where salvation is found.

Today God's way of salvation in Jesus alone has been preached to you. And you must and can rest upon Him because He went to the cross to purchase salvation for guilty sinners by His own blood.

What will you do with Jesus? Will you receive Him or reject Him?