

# Jesus Christ is the Savior

By Tom Hill

**Bible Text:** Matthew 1:18-21

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No more fitting study exists than to study Jesus Christ. The list of potential subjects for study exceeds mortal mankind's ability to comprehend them. Obviously, in this short document, I cannot even scratch the surface of the infinite mysteries concerning Christ.

However, I can call your attention to Matthew 1:18-21, which highlights some important data concerning Jesus:

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. {19} Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. {20} But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. {21} And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

From this passage, I want to examine with you 3 particular truths about Jesus Christ. I pray that the Holy Spirit will use them to reform, revive, and revitalize your life.

## An expressive title

First, this passage reveals that Jesus possesses an expressive title. You will see it revealed in Matthew 1:21:

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus..."

In our day, the names given to children at birth carry little, if any, meaning. Sometimes children inherit a family name or tradition. Besides those instances, however, birth names carry little meaning. But in Christ's day, birth names had great meaning. Often, they reflected the work of God or His absence in the parents' lives. Sometimes, it identified the family's hopes for the child.

These later features characterized the name given to Jesus. In fact, Mary and Joseph did not choose His name; the angel told them His chosen name, Jesus. His name comes from

a Hebrew word, Joshua, that signifies salvation or Savior. Literally, it means Jehovah the Savior.

The Old Testament identifies two different men with this name. One of them, Joshua, the servant of Moses, led the children of Israel into the promised land. In so doing, he became the captain of salvation for his people. Another Joshua served as the High Priest after the Babylonian Captivity.

Both of them picture the foretold Christ and reveal the meaning of the name given to Jesus. Jesus, the Savior, came to earth to fulfill His title. He is the Captain of salvation. The Bible confirms this truth in Hebrews 2:10:

"For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings."

In addition, Jesus serves as High Priest for all who believe in Him. In fact, the book of Hebrews grants 16 references to Jesus as the High Priest.

Surely, His person fulfills His name. He is the Savior and High Priest of His people. The great preacher Charles Spurgeon stated it simply and concisely: "He is what He is called, Savior." Truly, Jesus possesses an expressive title.

### **An exclusive task**

As His name declares, Jesus performs an exclusive task. He accomplished for sinners what no other person or program could. Again the Bible emphatically proclaims in Matthew 1:21:

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

Sadly, fallacies of salvation from sin abound. Since the Garden of Eden, mankind has tried good works and religious works to obtain salvation. They have worshipped false gods and mortal religious leaders. All to no avail.

The statement concerning His exclusive task describes it this way. In its literal fashion, it says: Jesus, He it is that shall save. Jesus came into the world to save sinners. In other words, God made provision for sinners in only one Person, Jesus Christ. No other way brings salvation. The Bible provides ample evidence to confirm this truth.

For instance, it shows the futility and foolishness of other means and methods which mankind prefers. I will provide two references that clearly prove it.

Titus 3:5: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"

1 Peter 1:18-19: "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot..."

In addition the Bible verifies that Jesus Christ alone saves. For sake of brevity, I'll again furnish two references that clearly substantiate it.

Acts 4:12: "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

1 Timothy 2:5: "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"

Jesus accomplished in His life, death on the cross, resurrection, and ascension what no other has. He alone saves sinners. Certainly, Jesus Christ performs an exclusive task. An extraordinary treasure

Finally, Jesus provides an extraordinary treasure for those who believe in Him. Note again a short part of our text from Matthew 1:21:

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

At the end of this verse, it clearly describes the treasure that Jesus provides for all who believe on Him. It says that He will save His people from their sins. I want to identify for you four different results occur because Christ saves from sin.

Jesus saves His people from the pleasure of sin. It is true that sin brings pleasure, but only for a season (see Hebrews 11.25). When a person trusts Christ, he no longer loves sin, but God. The salvation of Christ saves sinners from sin's pleasures. Old things pass away; all things become new (see 2 Corinthians 5.17).

Jesus saves His people from the penalty of sin. The penalty of sin is death; so says Romans 6.23. But Jesus gives to the one who believes on Him eternal life (see John 3.16). The child of God is freed from what he rightly deserves, death, to enjoy God's gracious gift through Christ, eternal life with Him.

Jesus saves His people from the power of sin. When Jesus paid the penalty of sin for people like you and me, He broke sin's power. This truth is clearly declared in Romans 6:6-7:

"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. {7} For he that is dead is freed from sin."

The believer no longer lives under the control and dominion of sin, because Jesus has freed the child of God from its power.

Jesus saves His people from the practice of sin. As part of His work in believers, He constantly works in them to separate them from sin and to sanctify those who believe. The Scriptures validate this truth by its description of the work of Christ within believers. Several references from Romans and Colossians explain it. I make specific mention of Colossians 2:6 and 3:4:

"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him...For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."

In these ways, Christ completes what He begins. When Jesus saves, He saves from sin. His work is complete. Old things pass away; all things become new. As Charles Wesley, the hymn writer, describes it, "He breaks the power of canceled sin and sets the prisoner free; His blood can make the foulest clean, His blood availed for me."

What does the Holy Spirit want these truths to accomplish in your life today? Certainly, this message of Jesus comforts. These truths from God's word reaffirm faith in Jesus and increase the faith of His sheep. They give us doctrinal knowledge of God's Son and the Father's purpose and plan for Him. Further, they reveal His character: His love, grace, and mercy for sinners. The provision of Jesus Christ encourages those who doubt. Praise God, He has made provision to reconcile His alienated people back to Himself through Jesus Christ. These truths comfort not only those who doubt and waver, but also those who firmly trust Him.

In addition, the Holy Spirit wants these truths to correct you. Their application will correct you from error. As I stated earlier in the article, a multitude of fallacies abound regarding salvation from sin. Many hold wrong beliefs concerning Jesus Christ. Too often, people base their eternal destiny upon good works and religious practices.

But, these truths mold our judgment and conform us to God's word. They give us instruction to believe: about Jesus, the helplessness of mankind, and God's grace and mercy. They outline the way of salvation through Christ. They provide grounding in faith and freedom from ignorance, error, and the power of evil, unto new life in Jesus.

Finally, the Holy Spirit wants these truths to convict us. Where has the Holy Spirit identified your failure to apply them in your life? Do they state what you believe, or do you trust in popular fallacies that will doom your soul? Do you believe rightly concerning Je-

sus Christ? Or do you maintain that He was nothing more than a good man, a moral man, someone who merely gives us an example to follow?

Do these declarations of Scripture describe how you live? Do you rest in good works, religious practice, or some other false messiah? Do these doctrines mold and shape your life? Do you trust only in Jesus Christ as your Savior from sin?

Whether we hold false doctrine and practice false duty because of ignorance or outright rebellion, the consequences of sin remain the same. In the end, such practices and beliefs deify mankind, reject Jesus Christ, and grieve and quench the Holy Spirit. I remind you that God examines your heart and is not fooled by your outward appearance.

What conclusions about your condition has the Holy Spirit revealed to you today? Has He found you faithful or doubting? Obedient or disobedient? Has He found you innocent or guilty? Perhaps you find yourself in the company of the committed. Then, these truths comfort and encourage you. Their validity causes you to praise, glorify, honor, and fear God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

Then again, perhaps the Holy Spirit has shown you that these truths have no current application in your life. You do not trust Jesus Christ, and you see your lost, ruined condition. You rightly conclude that you deserve God's eternal judgment. You now see your need of a Savior. Your helplessness and sinfulness make you unable to save yourself and drive you to Jesus for relief. Look to Jesus now. Believe Him and His sacrifice as for you. He will save you, and you will find the Biblical description of Him true and real in your own life.

I pray that the Holy Spirit will apply these truths in your life today. I pray that He will regenerate your life, renew your faith, and reform your life. May He come and do this gracious work in your life today.

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