

NONE OTHER NAME

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

These words were spoken by Simon Peter. When the cripple was healed on the Mount of the Temple, the Jewish world roused itself in earnest. The miracle was performed in the most public place in Jerusalem; and immediately afterwards Peter addressed a large multitude which gathered around him. He pointed out that Jesus, by the might of His Name, was the real worker of the miracle; that His exaltation and power were in accordance with prophecy; that it was a fact of the utmost moment to every one of His hearers. Hereupon three classes of persons became alarmed. The priests saw in the apostles of Christ dangerous rivals to their office and authority. The Sadducees were angered at the public discussion of a miracle, which, if true, condemned their own denial of a resurrection, and which they would gladly have buried beneath a contemptuous silence. The Captain of the Temple, as the guardian of public order, was apprehensive that the excitement might lead to disturbance.

The prejudices of the past, combined with resentment and fears, carried the day, and they cast the apostles into prison.

This done, it became necessary that the apostles should be examined in court--the Court of the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin was solemnly convoked. It had to determine whether the apostles were to be regarded as true prophets or as seducers to idolatry. The members of the Sanhedrin knew that the cripple had been healed by the apostles, not in the name of Jehovah, but in the name of Jesus. Therefore, they asked, 'By what name have ye done this?' And Peter, standing before men who had his life in their hands, spoke directly to the point: "Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; 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. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner." Acts 4:8b-11. And then he adds--"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

What a great word that word "salvation" is! It includes the cleansing of the conscience from all past guilt, and the delivery of the soul from all those propensities to evil which now so strongly predominate in us.

Salvation begins with us as wandering sheep; it follows us through all of our many wanderings; it puts us on the shoulders of the shepherd; it carries us into the fold; it calls together the friends and the neighbors; it rejoices over us; it preserves us in that fold through life; and then at last it brings us to the green pastures of heaven, beside the still waters of bliss, where we lie down forever in the presence of the chief Shepherd, never more to be disturbed.

I. Salvation Needed.

It is amazing to see and hear Peter speaking thus to the Sanhedrin and proclaiming the necessity of salvation, and that salvation in the name of Jesus Christ and in no other. Salvation is a great necessity--"We must be saved." This is true because you are lost and helpless to save yourself. There are three deadly facts about sin:

1. The guilt of it.

Blameworthiness follows the commission of sin. When we say that the sinner is guilty, we mean that he is to blame for his sin. The responsibility for it abides on him. The wickedness of it is his. And sin is an offense against Him, a disobedience to Him, a separation from Him, a breaking up of the harmony that ought to be between man and God.

2. The stain of it.

The soul is defiled by sin. All sin is defilement. Your most respectable sin leaves a mark on the soul. The soul is tainted by it as a glass of pure water is tainted by a drop of ink. And the stain of sin, like the spot of blood on Lady Macbeth's hand, is something that we cannot wash out.

3. The power of it.

The sinner soon finds that he is in bondage to a habit. Sin has an enslaving power. All human experience testifies to the fact that one sin makes another sin easier. Each sin weaves another thread of the rope that binds us, till liberty is lost, and sin's tyranny is complete, and the sinner seems to have ceased to be master in his house of life.

Man is a sinner, his sin causes him to be lost, and he is helpless when it comes to saving himself, therefore salvation is needed.

II. Salvation Provided.

Salvation is a subject of world-wide interest because all need it. Christ Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. The Saviour saw in every soul or child of the human race an immortal soul, a pearl of infinite price, designed to shine, when redeemed, with eternal luster in His crown of glory. The soul He saw beneath the rags of the beggar, beneath the crimes of the greatest criminal, beneath the nakedness and repulsiveness of the savage, beneath the superciliousness and over-refinement of the dilettante, He came to save by an everlasting salvation and to redeem that soul He gave His life.

Salvation in Christ comprehends the first dawn of conviction of sin, the apprehension of the plan of salvation, the exercise of repentance and faith, the joy of forgiveness, adoption and renewal, a life of personal victory and usefulness, with vicissitudes, its conflicts, and its triumphs, conquest of death, entrance into heaven, everlasting life in God's presence, where there is fulness of joy, the light of perfect knowledge, the glow of perfect love, the rapture of perfect felicity, and all of this forever. This salvation which is needed by all and provided for all is adapted to all. It is also intended for all. It is gratifying to know that salvation is not the exclusive property of the great and wealthy. It may be the portion of the poor as well as the rich. It may be enjoyed by the illiterate as well as by the educated. This salvation is in the name of Christ.

It is in reach of all of us. The text contains a negative and a positive fact. The negative--there is no salvation in any other. The positive--there is salvation in Christ.

III. Salvation Possessed

The condition on which this salvation is bestowed is repentance and faith. Compliance with this condition is necessary if you are to be saved. You may think that you can be saved by your good works. If so, you are sadly mistaken for two reasons:

1. You do not have any good works.

Good works are those which are done by the children of God, in obedience to the command of God, for the glory of God and for the good of others. So you can readily see that an unsaved person does not perform them.

2. If you had any good works, still they could not save you "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9.

Neither is salvation to be obtained by reformation. Nor is salvation to be obtained through ceremonies. They cannot help you in the least towards acceptance by Christ.

There is no salvation in any other name than that of Christ. You may say "That is intolerance." Yes, it is, but it is the truth which has been proved and demonstrated by all history, both ancient and modern. No one has ever been saved by any other. We must be saved through Christ, if we are ever to be saved at all. There is no other foundation—"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." I Corinthians 3:11. "For there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12. "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: No man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6. In Christ there is salvation for you. "Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them!" Hebrews 7:25. As surely as there is no salvation in any other, so surely there is salvation in Him. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." Acts 16:31. All possess salvation who accept Christ as their Saviour. Won't you accept Him now and receive salvation?

THE MASTER'S TOUCH

"They took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus." Acts 4:13.

In the Ocean Grove Auditorium there was once advertised a concert by a master violinist to be played on a \$5,000 violin, accompanied by the pipe organ—one of the finest in the land. At the appointed time a great audience assembled with high anticipations. The violinist appeared on the stage. The organ pealed forth a prelude; the musician put the violin to his shoulder, drew the bow across the strings, and sweet melody floated out upon the air. Louder and more brilliant became the music until the violinist brought the selection to a brilliant climax. There was a moment of tense silence—then a burst of applause. The audience cheered and cheered, rising to its feet in enthusiasm.

Right in the midst of the applause the master stepped unexpectedly to the front of the platform, and bringing his violin down on the table smashed it all to pieces. The audience amazed, and all but dazed, sat down aghast. What could it mean? Had the master suddenly lost his senses? Quickly he walked across the platform, opened another violin case and took out an instrument. He came to the center of the platform, held up the violin and said with a smile, "The violin upon which I have just been playing, the one now in splinters, cost me \$2.50. This instrument—holding up the violin in his hand—is the \$5,000 violin."

It was not the instrument that had produced the music which so thrilled the audience. It was the master's touch upon the \$2.50 violin.

Just as the touch of the master violinist upon the humble instrument produced unexpected and startling beauty, so the touch of the Master, Jesus Christ, upon fallen, depraved human lives produces unexpected and marvelous results.

Outcasts of society found themselves in gospel missions, were brought face to face with Christ, and yielded their all to Him. Now they are respected, useful, capable Christians and citizens. The Master's touch transforms character—"makes common people uncommon." His touch transformed Simon Peter. There were many unlovely traits about him when he started following Christ. He was changed into one of the greatest Christians who ever lived.

The Master's touch upon our lives will produce surprising results. Many times we feel our littleness and unworthiness to such an extent that we bury our talents and do nothing. The Master's touch changes all. Great things can happen to even the humblest when lives are under the Master's touch. From the natural viewpoint no one would have looked for unusual

accomplishments from William Carey. In an humble cottage, bending over shoes he was making, he had little education, he was from a poor, insignificant family, and seemingly had no special talents. Converted at eighteen, a new purpose was given to his life. With map and globe before him as he made shoes, he thought about the rest of the world, and his heart burned to send them the gospel. Eventually, through his efforts, the first missionary society was formed, and finally he went to India. His accomplishments there are wonderful to consider... The first Indian Bible translations, the first printing in native dialects, the first Christian school in North India, the first college, the first medical mission, the first converts and native churches--all these were the result of his efforts.

The Master's touch is the all-important thing. Without it our greatest efforts fall short of our expectations. With it our lives count far beyond our fondest dreams. One who dwells with the Saviour and catches His spirit is at once seen to be superior to other men. All who see him take knowledge that he has been with Christ.