

## THE ONLY SAVING 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.

Immediately after the lame man in Jerusalem was healed by the power of God through Simon Peter, the Apostle addressed a large crowd which had gathered around him. He pointed out that Christ was the real worker of the miracle. Due to prejudice, resentment and fear, the people became alarmed and cast the apostles into prison.

This having been done, it became necessary that the apostles should be examined in court, so the Sanhedrin was solemnly convoked. The members of the Sanhedrin knew that the cripple had been healed in the name of Christ, but they asked, "By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?" Standing before men who had his life in their hands, Peter 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. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

That the name of Christ has come to occupy the most exalted position in the history of the world none can gainsay. That it promises to conquer in wide areas yet untouched seems to be an intelligent conclusion. Thirty-five years ago H. G. Wells, a noted world scholar, assigned himself the task of naming six greatest men of all history. He did not have the slightest hesitancy in naming Jesus Christ as preeminently the greatest man who ever lived. As Emerson powerfully expressed it, "The name of Jesus is not so much written as ploughed into the civilizations of the world." There is scarcely a department of human endeavor where His imprint is not felt. The world can never destroy His implanted truths.

Nobody ever lived as Christ lived. He combined love and justice, strength and humility, courage and control, fearlessness and tenderness. It mattered not whether He was in the crowd or in solitude He retained all virtues and avoided all pitfalls. No one ever caught Him off guard. There was not a trace of sin in all of His life. Pilate's verdict, "I find no fault in Him," remains the verdict of the centuries.

Christ's name was given its highest exaltation in the fact that He died an altogether unique death. Hundreds have died as martyrs to great causes. They died in such a way that their names are imperishably great. On the cross of Calvary the dearest and best person who ever lived died for lost sinners.

To his listeners Peter proclaimed the necessity of salvation. The salvation which the New Testament offers is the complete redemption of the whole man. It includes deliverance from the penalty of sin, from the love of sin, from the power of sin and eventually from the presence of sin. It includes the regeneration of the soul, the transformation of the life, and at last the resurrection of the body and the union of soul and body in a glorified personality for eternal habitation in

"That land of pure delight,  
Where saints immortal reign,  
Where infinite day excludes the night  
And pleasures banish pain;  
Where everlasting spring abides  
And never withering flowers;  
And death is but the door that divides  
That heavenly land from ours."

Years ago, during the uprising in India against England, the statue of Queen Victoria was terribly defaced with a coat of tar. The authorities used every means at their command to remove the stains, but they failed. After many unsuccessful efforts on their part, a Hindu chemist offered his services and promised that with a special preparation which he had concocted he could remove the stain. He was allowed to try his skill, with the result that the stain was entirely removed, and the monument was restored to its original beauty.

Let me tell you of another statue defaced by a hideous stain. It is that soul of yours which God has made in His own image. Sin has marred its beauty and defaced its loveliness. Men have tried many concoctions, but have not found anything that will remove the stain of sin from the soul. God was so concerned about this matter that He sent His only begotten Son into the world to wash away the stains of sin from the souls of men and restore them to their original beauty.

"What can wash away my sins?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
What can make me whole again?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

"Oh, precious is the flow  
That makes me white as snow;  
No other fount I know,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus."

When we turn our eyes within and look at ourselves, we see weakness and failure and sin. We know full well that in ourselves and of ourselves we cannot be saved. If we are saved at all, it cannot be because of what we are or what we do, but because of what Christ is and does for us.

Before Christ came into the world men could only guess at God's attitude toward sinners. In nature they got a glimpse of His power, wisdom and glory. They saw Him only in His works and ways. How wonderful it is to have God available in Christ with all of His redeeming, saving, purifying and glorifying power!

All are sinners. Some may not like to be told that they are. Others are not willing to admit it, but that does not change the fact. We belong to a sinful race. All of our ancestors were sinners. All through the centuries the stream of human life has been flowing through the valleys of sin and has picked up the mud and mire of evil. To this day it pours that turbid tide into the veins of every child born into this world. We are members of a sinful race.

Sin must be dealt with before men can be saved. Christ alone can deal effectively with sin. On the cross He paid its penalty. On the cross He redeemed men from condemnation and death. His crucifixion was not a martyrdom. Our salvation stems from the cross. We are set free from the law of sin and death by the atoning death of Christ.

Salvation by 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, a life of personal victory and usefulness, the conquest of death, entrance into heaven and everlasting life in God's presence, where there is fulness of joy, the light of perfect knowledge, the glow of perfect love and the rapture of perfect felicity forever. This salvation is not for the wealthy and the great only. It may be the portion of the poor as well as the rich. This salvation is in and through Christ. Man's greatest need is to be saved, and God's greatest purpose is to save man.

Did you ever notice the intolerance of God? In olden times the heathen peoples had different gods, so they respected the gods of their neighbors. But Jehovah said, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." He simply would not permit His people to respect the gods of the

other nations. God's Word plainly teaches that none are saved apart from Christ. Nobody will ever receive salvation from anyone except Christ. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

The apostles and the early Christians repudiated all the religions of the world and declared that Christianity alone proclaimed the message of salvation. If the early Christians had been willing for Christ to be counted as just a respectable sage and numbered with the gods of Rome, no doubt the city of Rome would have added Christ to its Pantheon, Christianity would have been an allowed religion and many Christians would have escaped persecution and martyrdom. But these New Testament Christians would not allow Christ to be considered simply as one of the many gods. They affirmed that He was the only true Saviour and living Lord.

There is no salvation in any other than the One Who is named Christ. You may say, "That is intolerance." Yes it is, but it is the truth. This truth has been demonstrated and proved by history. Nobody has ever been saved by any other. You must be saved by Christ, if you are ever to be saved at all. "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." "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). Just as surely as there is no salvation in any other, so there is salvation in Christ. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31). All who accept Christ as their Saviour receive salvation. All who reject Christ do without salvation. Won't you receive Him now and come into possession of salvation?