

* ACTS

The Continuing Work of Jesus

Why Missions?

1. The universal lostness of mankind, including those who have never heard the gospel
2. The belief that there is no salvation apart from faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord

* Acts 4:1-12

Salvation in No One Else

As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple *guard* and the Sadducees came up to them, ² being greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³ And they laid hands on them and put them in jail until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴ But many of those who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.

(Acts 4:1-4)

Acts 4:5-12

⁵ On the next day, their rulers and elders and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem; ⁶ and Annas the high priest *was there*, and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of high-priestly descent. ⁷ When they had placed them in the center, they *began to* inquire, "By what power, or in what name, have you done this?" ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of the people, ⁹ if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well,

¹⁰ let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this *name* this man stands here before you in good health. ¹¹ He is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, *but* WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER *stone*. ¹² And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

Salvation in No One Else

1. The Reality of Persecution

- persecution and opposition are the expected realities for those who follow Jesus
- the implications of the gospel are personally challenging and potentially threatening

Salvation in No One Else

2. Spirit-Empowered Witness

- the Spirit enables bold witness to the truth of the risen Jesus as Savior and Lord
- this witness includes a personal challenge and indictment over errant views of Jesus

Salvation in No One Else

3. The Exclusivity of Christ

- Jesus is the only source of salvation in the entire world
- believing on the name of Jesus Christ is necessary for salvation

Salvation in No One Else

Implications:

1. This truth will be unpopular and offensive in our pluralistic culture of "tolerance"
2. This truth is the ground for the necessity and urgency of the missionary task

¹³ for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

¹⁴ How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?

¹⁵ How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!"

(Romans 10:13-15)