

Only Jesus!

*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

I was contemplating the coming season that ends with the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Just saying that causes my heart and mind to bubble with anticipation and with a joy that is quite difficult to express. The Apostle Peter truly declared it best: *“Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: ⁹ Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.”* (1 Peter 1:8-9)

There has been much talk in the past few years about the idea that there is more than one way to be saved or to get to heaven. However, I believe the Apostle Peter (again) told the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth when he declared that Jesus is the only name under heaven given whereby we must be saved. And, I can explain it!

Jesus is the bridge between God and mankind: He was born of a virgin woman who was “found with child of the Holy Ghost.” As the saying goes, “He looked like His mother, but acted like His Father” -- mankind and God. He was God Incarnate or God in flesh.

Jesus became the bridge or the doorway -- the entrance -- for mankind to once again have the communion that Adam and Eve had with God in the Garden. His death opened the door, once again, whereby mankind might be in the presence of God.

So many aspects of the Passion of Christ vie for our attention: all of them make a difference in our lives as Christians. However, today I was just “arrested” by the thought of **“only Jesus.”**

We have so little information, really, about the man called Jesus. We have a glimpse into His birth, we have a glimpse into His short years as a preacher, and we have a glimpse of His present day ministry at the right hand of the Father. Not a lot of information really! But, once again, Peter says it so clearly – *“whom having not seen, ye love.”*

I don’t know about you, but I finally have come to realize that there is really no way to persuade someone to believe in Jesus; that is, unless the Holy Spirit is preparing the way. I won’t argue with anyone about there being more than one way – I couldn’t prove it in an objective way and that’s what the naysayers want. There is no physical proof that would meet their criteria for belief. All I can say is: I believe, I love Him, and I live with a joy that has absolutely no dependence on the circumstances of my life.

I am saddened when people reject Him: He paid such an awesome price for them – if only they knew – if only they would receive it. Now, don’t get me wrong. Hearing the good news of Jesus, believing it and receiving it does not guarantee a life without problems or challenges. What it does guarantee is that you never face those problems or challenges alone. It promises that “salvation” is available in whatever form you may need it: healing, prosperity, deliverance, etc.

Most of all, though, salvation guarantees “resurrection.” Some contend that all of mankind dies; and, the Word of God does tell us that *“it is appointed unto men once to die.”* (Hebrews 9:27) But, this simply pertains to the flesh of mankind – the spirit of mankind never dies. Mankind is mortal, or the body is subject to death on this earthly plane; however, every individual is a spirit. You may have heard it stated this way: Man is a spirit: we have a mind and we live in

a body. If we have accepted Jesus as our Savior and Lord, the body will either “sleep” or it will be changed “in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump.” (1 Cor 15:51-52) And, we will put on incorruption and immortality. Hallelujah!

Only Jesus!

Only Jesus could have bridged the gap between mankind and God to make this opportunity available to us!

Only Jesus, in obedience to the Father, could offer Himself as the last sacrifice under the Old Covenant and obtained forgiveness and remission of sin for us.

Only Jesus could defeat Satan and all his forces to obtain victory over death and the grave for us.

Only Jesus could have made it possible for the Holy Spirit, our Comforter, to be sent to live within and come upon us.

Only Jesus could share His inheritance with us, making us joint-heirs with Him.

Only Jesus!

There are so many things that I could share with you concerning the wonderful provisions that Jesus made for us. There are so many life-changing blessings, empowerments of God, given to us because of the *gift* of Jesus. He taught us how to live, to love, and overcome all the power of the enemy. Only Jesus!

Men and women have come and gone that have influenced mankind for good. Many have sacrificed and obtained great victories for us – but none like Jesus. For, only Jesus could “taste death for every man” and only Jesus could destroy the one that had the power of death. But most of all, only Jesus could bring life and immortality to light and thereby bring to us the promise of eternal inheritance . . . eternal life.

On Resurrection Sunday, instead of focusing on Easter bonnets, eggs, and food, may our thoughts and praises be directed to Him, for . . .

Only Jesus! Only Jesus! Only Jesus!

Scriptural Supports: Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:26-38, Hebrews 4:16, 1 Cor 15; Hebrews 2:9, 14-18; Hebrews 9:15; Hebrews 8:6-13; John 14:15-17; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:14-17; Hebrews 1:1-3; John 3:16; Luke 10:19; Revelations 12:10-11