

NONE OTHER NAME

I want to direct your attention this morning to the chapter that we read together, Acts 4, especially verse 12. Let us read together again from Act 4, starting at verse 9. Here is Peter's defense before the religious and civil authorities. (9) *"If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; (10) 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. (11) This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. (12) Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."*

Well, as I said, here we have this statement, this announcement, this defense of the apostle Peter before the religious and civil authorities that had arrested them. Let me remind you briefly what had happened. Peter and John had gone up to the temple to pray. There at the gate of the temple was a man that everybody knew. He had been lame from his birth and he had been there for many, many years. Everybody knew him! Everybody who went into the temple saw him. He was part of the scene. They had known him for years. Peter stops and he says, *"look at us."* And the man of course looks up expecting to receive money. Peter says to him, *"I'm not giving you money but I'm going to give you something. **In the name of Jesus Christ, get up and walk.**"* And the man found strength within himself. He found his feet, his legs, his whole body getting strength. Suddenly, he was on his feet. He was not only on his feet, he was leaping in the air. He was overwhelmed with joy!!! Joy, indescribable!! He held on to the apostles, John and Peter, and they went to the temple and he was praising God!! And everybody, of course, ran to the scene. What is going on? They heard the shouting, this praising and they saw this man! Is it the same man? Well, it is! We know him!! What has happened? And so Peter then speaks to them and he tells them *exactly what* happened and *how* it happened. That it was **through Jesus Christ** who had been crucified, who God has raised from the dead, in fulfillment of the scriptures, which they knew. And then he called upon them to repent of their sins and to believe the good news, that in Jesus Christ and in Him alone is eternal salvation. And 5,000 people believed. That is what happened.

Suddenly, the captain of the temple comes and arrests Peter and John and takes them in hold. It was late or getting late and so they left them in hold (that is in a room, closed in, until the morning). There were a lot of people that did not sleep that night and we have a list of them. It is quite a formidable list. Listen to them. *"There came the rulers (here are the chief people of the Sanhedrin), and the Elders (here we have the ecclesiastical civil government), and the scribes (here we have the theologians, the doctors of the law, the teachers of Israel).* Well, we are moving into high society. Then along came Annas. He had some

difficulty getting out of bed because he was very old, but he made it to this important meeting. There was John, we do not know who he was. There was Alexander and as many as were of the family of the high priest. He got all the relative of his family. They were all there. And they all came together to Jerusalem because what was happening was terrifying to these people. They could not let this get out of their hands! They had to do something! They were counseling together and talking there but they did not know what to do!!!

So, they bring in Peter and John and very officially they ask them two question. *“How did you do this and on whose authority did you do it?”* Those are the two questions. By what power or by what name have ye done this? Then Peter, this X-fisherman, simple, uneducated man, well they noticed that and they wondered how he could speak like that. Well, they heard his speech because they realized these were ignorant, uneducated men. But they noticed something else too! Something they could not describe! Something that reminded them of someone else that they put on the cross!! These men reminded them of Jesus in their boldness. And Peter’s speech is a confrontation with these authorities. It is a head-on collision. **Their** policy was this. **Our** policy is another one. This is **your** agenda. This is not **our** agenda! **You say** do not preach anymore. **We have to preach!** Are we going to listen to **YOU** people or are we going to listen to **God!** We cannot but speak of the things that we have seen and heard.

This is the “Stone” which was set at naught of you builders and it has 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. They said, *“You are not to preach anymore. We do not want this to go any further. Just promise us that.”* But Peter says, *“No! We are under a higher authority. We are commissioned to preach this truth. This truth has to go to all the world.”* Did you notice that phrase and what defiance is in it. I love it. He says, *“Be it known unto all and to ALL the people of Israel, you will never stop us because we are under a higher authority. We have a commission.”* This is Peter’s doctrine and this is the very essence of Christianity. This is truth that we find in this particular verse that we are looking at this morning.

There are **three** things that I want to bring before you from this statement of doctrine that is the basis of Christianity and the very essence of it. **First of all**, Peter says *“there is no other name under heaven.”* Jesus of Nazareth who died and rose again has the supreme authority. Remember the words of Jesus to the apostles, before His ascension. When He gathered them together before He returned to the Father, having accomplished the will of God, He said this, *“All authority is given unto Me in Heaven and on Earth. Go ye therefore and preach the gospel. Make disciples of all nations and I will be with you until the very ending of the ages.”* What, in truth, He is saying is that Jesus has the supreme authority over all things. Do you know what that means? It means that Jesus has supreme authority over cherubim and seraphim, arc

angels, angels, principalities, thrones and judgments. He is the supreme ruler of ALL the heavenly beings, angelic and spiritual. He has supreme authority. He has supreme authority over Satan, all demons, all the forces of evil, all the forces of evil that are in this world. He has authority over all criminals, thieves, murderers, dictators, governments and rulers. He has authority over ALL men, over all the souls of men. He has absolute authority over every one of us. He has authority over you and of me. The hearts of kings are in the hands of the Lord. He turns them just like the water courses. He is in command of the universe, the galaxies and the stars. There are billions upon billions of stars and He knows them all by name and they do His bidding. And He has authority over this Earth. He HAS this authority and He discharges this authority. There is nothing that takes place in this world without the supreme authority of Jesus Christ. Do you believe that? Well, that is the very heart of this doctrine. Jesus is supreme. **There is no other name under heaven!**

Now this is, and should be, a great comfort and strength to all who are believers. Everything is of the hands of Jesus, who loves you, who died for you, who prays for you and He is making everything to work together for your good. Nothing happens to you without His precise rule and purpose. A sparrow, in his dizzy flight, springs from branch to branch but not without the authority of God, without the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. NOTHING that happens to you comes to you apart from His express purpose and will. The very hairs of your head are numbered. You are immortal until you die. By that I mean you will not die before He wills that you should die. He willed when you should be born, where you should be born, who your parents would be and it is His will when you should die. It is ALL in His hands, not of MAN, not of SATAN, and it is not in MY hands or YOUR hands, praise be to God, it is ALL in the hands of Jesus. Isn't this wonderful?

And this is a great encouragement to the mission that God has given us because Jesus gave this great announcement when He was about to tell us what to do. He was speaking to just a handful of his followers and He saw a great company of people. He knows them all by name. He knew them from all eternity. The Father had given to Him a people from all eternity and **He knows** them and **He loves** them and **He came** into this world **to die** for them. They are from every tongue and tribe and nation under heaven. They are from all ages and all centuries even to the very ending of time. They are **His people** and He was commanding these apostles to begin the work. "Go," he says, "*into all the world and make the world My disciples. I will be with you. I will never leave you. I will never forsake you and just remember this, everything, EVERYTHING is in My complete control.*" Now this is a great incentive to living, isn't it? It is a great incentive to what we are commissioned to do. It is a great incentive to missions.

The second thing is this. It becomes clear from these words that **salvation is ONLY in Christ**. There is salvation in NONE other. There is no other name under heaven given amongst men. Salvation is only in Jesus Christ and it is no where else. Now, at least *two things* follow from that. **The first thing** is

this: That ALL men, everybody, without exception, whether you are black, red, yellow or white, whatever your color, whatever your race, it doesn't matter **who** you are, **where** you are, all of those apart from Jesus Christ are lost! A main principle lesson we have to learn as we come into this world is that without Jesus Christ you are LOST! You need a **savior!** You need a savior from **sin!** You need a savior from **death!** You need a savior from **hell** and the only savior is **Jesus Christ!** Now, this is terribly politically incorrect today. You see what people believe today is this, "*It is alright for you Christians, if you believe what you believe. That is fine, but other people do not believe that and that is fine too. Just leave them alone. They think this way.....you think that way and just leave it like that.*" You see, what they are saying is that there really is no truth. What is good for you may not be good for them. What is good for them may not be good for you. But what they are saying is that there is **no absolute truth.** Now, this is quite ridiculous because, you see when they say, "*There is no absolute truth,*" **that** statement is an "absolute" isn't it? This is completely illogical, nonsensical and ridiculous but this is the philosophy of the people among who we live. This is what permeates our education system, apart from Christian Schools and it even infiltrates into some of them sometimes. This is what comes to you through the media and through the newspapers. Everywhere this is shouted out at us.

This was the whole position of these authorities that arrested Peter and John. You see, their whole position was, "*If you want to preach the resurrection, that is fine. If you want to believe that one day that people will arise from the dead, that is fine if you want to believe that but.....do not say that it is through Jesus Christ because that means that everybody else is wrong and that cannot be. It means that we are wrong and how it is possible that we are wrong. We are the rulers, we are the authorities, we have God's Word.*" But they did not believe God's Word. And this is the situation in which we find ourselves today and the conflict is just starting. It is coming more and more to a head and it will be dangerous. I do not know when or how soon. Maybe your children as they grow up, maybe their children or grandchildren. I do not know. This is the situation in which we live in. There are certain things that you cannot say anymore. Maybe very soon, we cannot say them inside the church because it is not correct, it is not kind, it is not right! But Christianity says this: That the only salvation is in Jesus Christ. That we are all lost. Jesus said, "***I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No man comes to God except through ME!***" And that is the message we have to bring. That means that Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims and all the rest are WRONG!

Remember, that is what Jesus told the women of Samaria. She said, "*Our fathers teach this but I remember you Jews teach this.*" Jesus said to her, "*My dear young women, I must tell you this. Your religion is completely and utterly wrong! Salvation is of the Jews!*" Well, this is the message we have to bring: Salvation is only in Jesus Christ and apart from Him we are all lost. That means that we are in sin and that we are under the judgment of God and we shall go into eternity in our sins to everlasting misery, to

eternal death and destruction.....but who believes that anymore! But that is the truth of the Gospel. There is only one way and that is Jesus Christ!

Why are all these other religions wrong? Well, I will tell you why they are wrong. All these other religions are **man's** attempt to deal with the problem of sin. You see, deep, deep down all men know that something has gone wrong, that they are rebels in the sight of God. They do not understand.... but they know something is wrong and they see sin and they see the world as it is and they say, "*How can we get out of this mess?*" They come up with all kinds of ideas! Along comes a man and he says "*Follow me.*" Another one comes along with an army and by power he gets great multitudes of people to follow him and he is on the march today. It is ALL just men's way because you see it does not deal with the fundamental question of man's sin. And **I do not know** of anyone else who did something about **my sin**, except Jesus Christ!

The second thing that comes out of that is that it is quite clear that '*All the World must Hear.*' Is that not what Jesus said to these believers, to these disciples, when He said, "*All power is given to Me. Go ye therefore and tell them, these lost men and women, go and tell them and make them **My disciples.** And when you do that and as long as you do that, I will be with you, even unto the very end of the ages.*" So, here is our supreme duty. This is why God has left us in the world. This is what we are to do. This is why you are HERE! You are part of the Christian church and this is what we are to do. We are to obey His command and to go and tell the world that Jesus is the ONLY Savior and that He saves sinners.

The third thing that we see is that "All Must Respond." I put it this way because of this expression, "Neither is there salvation in any other. *For there is none other name under heaven, given among men whereby we **MUST be saved.***" I love that MUST! It is telling us that when you hear the message you MUST respond. We cannot just think about it. We MUST RESPOND! It is the command of Jesus Christ. Of these people that heard Peter preaching that day, five thousand people responded immediately! They did **not say**, "*I am going to go home and think about this. This was extraordinary! I mean really, lets think about it. Let us examine it. Let us talk about it.*" The reason they did not do that is because it came with authority. It came with power. "**REPENT!!! Change your whole way of thinking! Submit to God's plan of salvation.**" This was how Peter preached on that day in the temple.

You remember how the apostle Paul preached the same message on the island of Paphos, on Mars Hill, in Athens, long, long ago. He had seen this alter to the "unknown God." There were so many alters, so many gods and goddesses' but here he saw this alter to the "unknown god." And so he is brought up this area to give this message. It is very interesting. He is speaking to pagans. He does not quote from scripture.

He speaks from the revelation of God in nature. A book that they read every day because the *heavens* declare the glory of God and the *waters* and the *firmament* shows His handiwork. But of course he brings them to the great revelation of scripture which is Jesus Christ. At the very conclusion, this is what he says to them, *“You people that regard yourselves as so wise: God describes your wisdom like this: “The Times of Ignorance.” You pride yourself on your temple architecture and I am here to tell you that God does not want any temples made with man’s hands. You say that all the rest of the world is barbarians but I tell you that God has made of ONE flesh, ONE blood, ALL men to dwell upon the face of the earth.”* The whole speech is a confrontation with all they believe. It is all coming up to this climax. Then he says, *” But NOW....., NOW....., God commands ALL men EVERYWHERE to REPENT because He has appointed a day in which He will judge the world by Jesus Christ. He has given His word about this to all men, in that He has raised Him (Jesus) from the dead.”*

Well, this is the message. Let me ask you, *“Have you obeyed that message?”* God commands ALL men EVERYWHERE to repent. How do you repent? I can see young people sitting in the pews and I ask you *“Have you repented? Have you changed your whole way of thinking?”* Believe God’s word when He tells you that you are a sinner and that you need a savior. Believe God’s word when it tells you of Jesus who came to seek and to save sinners. Then you flee to him, IMMEDIATELY, without hesitation because He calls you. You say, *“I’m hopeless. I’m helpless. I do not understand where I am, what I am. All that I know is that I am LOST and I need Jesus!”* That is the beginning of faith.

Let me try to apply all this. Let me ask you this. What are we here for? Why are we here? Why has God left us in the world? Well, He has left us in the world in order that we might worship God but also in order that might bring the Gospel to the world. If you were the only church in the world at this moment, it would be your duty to bring the Gospel to the whole world. You would have to begin here and then you would have to go to the ends of the earth but it would be YOUR duty, YOUR obligation! GO YE, I have all the authority and I am telling you, GO!

I wonder what would happen to us if the authorities dealt with us as these authorities tried to deal with the apostles as we read in this chapter. I think it is clear that they would not have minded them meeting together for worship. They had been doing that already. They could have their worship services. Someone could expound the scriptures to them. That would be fine. They could even catechize their young people if they wished. You see, what they said was *“they did not want it spread any further.” “Just keep it to yourself and that will be fine. We do not want it to GO OUT.”* And Peter says, *“Be it known unto you all and unto all the people of Israel.”* So here was the conflict. We would have to scrap the broadcast on the radio. That would have to stop. What else would have to go? I do not know. You know.

So my question is this, “*What are we doing?*” I was reading the other day about a general’s daughter. She was a remarkable woman. She worked in France among the poor and the derelicts and she did remarkable work. She was also a remarkable speaker. She gathered people together to bring them the Gospel, to talk to them, to feed them and to help them. In a train she met a young man and he recognized her. He said to her, “*I have just become a believer. Oh, it is wonderful and I go to church.*” “*You what?*” she says. “*I go to church*” he said. She said, “*You go to church. Is that all you are doing for a dying world? You go to church?*”

So, the question is, “What are we going to do?” Some of the boys are in the armed forces. Some of them have been sent. Thousands of young men are going to assemble in a certain place because who knows what is going to happen. Suddenly, they are sent. They go. Let me put it to you like this. What are you young people going to do with your lives? Our authorities can call you to arms and you go but Jesus calls us to arms also. Jesus calls us as His army to *go into all the world and preach the Gospel*. That applies to everyone here. The church of Jesus Christ is a missionary society. Sometimes we have missionary societies. No, no, the whole church is a missionary society. It should be the duty of every young man and woman listening to my voice, to make it a matter of special and continuous prayer. “Lord, do Thou want me to go to the ends of the earth, to go to some place, maybe even in this country, but to preach Thy Word, to bring Thy Gospel?” We are either sending or going or being disobedient.

There are young men in Palestine who put bombs around them and throw themselves against a bus and Jewish boys and girls who are going to school are blown into eternity. They do it for whom? For Mohammed! The Iranian boys, in the war with Iraq some years ago, were given plastic keys in their pockets. Their generals and the soldiers sent these little boys in front to be blown up by the mines so the soldiers could get through. BUT.....they had a key in their pocket. A key to paradise! They were willing to do it, for whom? For Mohammed. And WHO is he?

We are worshippers of the Lord Jesus Christ. Many years ago there was a great missionary from Great Britain. His name was Henry Martin. He was brilliant. He was the senior mathematician in Cambridge University. He carried off all the prizes. His major, however, was actually Greek and Latin and ancient history. He was a very brilliant man! Through the ministry of a certain minister, who held these truths before his congregation, many men went to so many countries. Henry Martin was one of them and he went to India. He arrived in India, in a Portuguese colony, and found other missionaries. They all met this brilliant man and they realized that he should spend his time translating the scriptures. He died when he was 29 years old and he had translated the Bible into Arabic, Persian and another language. When he went to Persia, which is now Iran, to perfect himself in the language, he met a certain sect of Islam that was very mystical. He had debates with them and conversations with them. On one occasion a man said this, “*Do you know something? In the wars against the Christians (he was speaking of Russia), Jesus Christ, in the*

third heaven, took hold of the skirts of Mohammed and said, 'Please stop persecuting the Christians'." And Henry Martin rose up, tears streaming down his cheeks. The man asked "*What is the matter?*" Henry Martin said this, "*I could not bear to live if Jesus shall not be glorified. It would be HELL for me if He is so dishonored.*" Then he wrote in his diary, "I knew then that I belonged to Christ because they had hit the head and it hit the body. He knew that he belonged to the body of Christ.

You see, this is Jesus' world. "All souls are Mine." "There is no other name." And if you love Him and if you have any desire for His glory, then how can we bear it when millions go to Mecca every year and walk around that stone and pray in the name of a false prophet? How can we bear it when Hindu temples are filled with worshippers worshipping gods and goddesses'? And we have the truth and YOU more than most people. The things that you have here, the knowledge, the way you bring up your children, the way you teach them to worship, the way the Gospel is preached, these are privileges that perhaps you do not realize how great they are. Perhaps you do. But what are you going to do with it all? Now is the time. Lets thank God there are young men coming up to preach, and there is great work to do in the churches of New Zealand and other places **but....** there are far off lands as well.

AWAKE, young men, young woman! Pray! Parents, pray! Pray this: "make one of my sons one of Thy missionaries. I give him to Thee Lord." That would be the greatest thing you could do for your son. So, let us do it.

AMEN