

## HC 29-30 – Jesus – The Name That Charms Our Fears

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: After the recently concluded Euro 2012 soccer competition, I am sure there are many who want to be a friend of Ronaldo, the famous Portuguese soccer star. Others might want to be a friend of Prime Minister Harper and have access to his ears and be able to boast about knowing an important person. But the soccer star will get old and forgotten, and the Prime Minister will one day be out of office. And then what? You will then have to look for someone else who is famous to get some benefits.

On the other hand, there is a name that charms 吸引 your fears 敬畏— someone you know intimately. This one is like none other. He is only one who can save you from your sins and from death, hell, and judgment. And this one can do so permanently. You don't need any other and there isn't another. It is nice to have others, like Nehemiah had Artaxerxes' ears, but friends are limited in what they can do to help you. Jesus Christ will always be your friend and remove your fears. And it is about him who charms all your fears that you will learn about again today. And again, how can you get tired of hearing about your exclusive friend, doing what no one else could do, doing for you what you needed the most...and doing it permanently...

Our headings are: Is Jesus the Only Savior of Sinners? and Are Christ and People really Christians?

Our goals are: 1. That you will be warned not to put anything alongside Jesus (including yourself) when it comes to your salvation. 2. Because you want to see the lost saved, you never accept as your close relations those who reject the exclusivity 排他性 of Jesus Christ, but rather, you will work to bring them to Christ who alone saves.

### Is Jesus the Only Savior of Sinners?

29 Q. WHY IS THE SON OF GOD CALLED "JESUS" MEANING "SAVIOR"?

A. Because he saves us from our sins. Salvation cannot be found in anyone else; it is futile 无用 to look for any salvation elsewhere.

1. Jesus is rightly called "Savior" because he came to save sinners. Even Mary rejoiced in Jehovah her Savior. (Luke 1).

Being an unwed mother was not reason to praise God, but because Jesus was her Savior she had reason to rejoice.

Matthew 1:21 "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

Now it was not uncommon during the Bible times and even in many cultures today to name children with an expectation of what they might be... or with a desire the parents may have for that child... or in order to express the parents' view of God. This is why you will find many names of the Bible ending in "yah" or beginning with "yah." (Yah-e-l – Joel – Jehovah is God, Jedidiah – Beloved of Jehovah, Solomon's name.) It was not common to name one's child after entertainers...but after names of substance 实质. Now Jesus' name is pronounced in Hebrew "Yah-shua." This name means "Jehovah (Jah) saves (shua)." The angel Gabriel did not give Joseph a suggestion to name his Son "Jesus." The angel gave a command to him. So as was common, Jesus' name clearly represented his work. The Father asserted the right to name Jesus. He did this because the work that Jesus would do was most important.

2. Now, though the name "Jesus" was not specifically used in the Old Testament, Jesus' person and future work is clearly described there. So you can say Jesus was mentioned in the Old Testament. The Jews looked to the same Savior, they had the same Gospel, and they were therefore brought into the same church.

Isaiah 43:25 "I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.

Isaiah 53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. 11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.

And you can tell that this salvation was a spiritual work. This salvation was not salvation from human enemies like the Romans, Greeks, Medo-Persians, Babylonians, or Assyrians. If you go back to Genesis 3 you will find the first promise of Christ and his spiritual salvation, then you find that spiritual salvation described throughout the life of Patriarchs and the prophets, and it was also illustrated through the sacrificial system of the Old Testament.

3. Much of the New Testament looks back to your spiritual salvation through Jesus Christ on the cross – his work of saving sinners. The Apostle said: I preach nothing but Jesus Christ and him crucified.

Galatians 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),

1Peter 2:24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

You can see a great expression of our Lord's saving work in Philippians 2. Paul said that Jesus humbled himself to come down from heaven to save sinful wretches 悲路 like you.

**4. Christ work of saving you was an exclusive work. This means that no one on this earth is saved through any other means but through Jesus Christ. Your salvation from sin is exclusive to Christ.**

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

Peter repeated this same idea with more details, showing that Christ was the only way you could be saved from sins. You could have no other real comfort in life and in death.

Acts 4:11 "This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone 房角石' 12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Even if someone claimed to be the Savior, or he claimed to be a newer Savior, you must reject him. Or if people desire that that new prophet has a new way of salvation, you must reject them as brothers.

Isaiah 43:11 I, even I, am the LORD, And besides Me there is no savior.

1 Corinthians 16:22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

Illustration: When Judah ran to Egypt with his fine horses and great warriors to save him when Babylon came to take them captive, God made it clear that that would actually be his destruction. Judah was destroyed because he did not look to Christ to be saved. The same thing is true spiritually. Only Jehovah has the means necessary and you must look to him as a maid looks to her mistress.

Ps 123:2 Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, As the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, So our eyes look to the LORD our God, Until He has mercy on us.

Remember this: At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow. Every tongue confess Him king of glory now. 'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord Who from the beginning was the mighty Word!

**5. After Jesus saves a sinner he also keeps him safe. He does not leave his work half-finished 未完成的. The sinner then does not need any other person to finish off the work (as Muslims claim). Even the saved sinner can do nothing to continue his salvation. The saved sinner simply receives what Christ gives to him daily – free of cost, of course, to him, but costly to the Lord who had to give his life for man's safety. He doesn't have to give to charity to earn forgiveness.**

John 15:5 "I am the vine 葡萄树, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

**Are Christ-and people really Christians?**

30 Q. DO THOSE WHO LOOK FOR THEIR SALVATION AND SECURITY IN SAINTS, IN THEMSELVES, OR ELSEWHERE REALLY BELIEVE IN THE ONLY SAVIOR JESUS? A. No. Although they boast of being his, by their deeds they deny the only savior and deliverer, Jesus. Either Jesus is not a perfect savior, or those who in true faith accept this savior have in him all they need for their salvation.

1. More than a billion people in the world, actually, closer to two billion people in the world, claim to be Christians. No serious Christian reasonably believes that there are 2,000,000,000 Christians in this world. But, you might argue, if someone claims to be a Christian should you not trust them and accept what they say? No, not really. The one who is a Christian has to prove he is a Christian by his life, not just his testimony. This "talk but no evidence" Christians are usually "Christ-and" Christians.

2. Let's examine then the Christ-and Christians. Christ-and Christians believe in Christ and something else...or Christ and someone else. For examples:

a. Mormons believe in Jesus (kind of) and the Book of Mormon.

b. Roman Catholics believe in Jesus and their traditions-including praying to Mary. Can you imagine the disciples praying to Mary? Or can you imagine Jesus saying: If I don't hear your prayer, pray to a saint or through a saint and your prayer will be more effective?

c. Muslims believe in Jesus (well, not really, but they say they do) and the Koran. Their people claim that the Koran completes what Jesus did not. So when Jesus said: I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me, that he was either lying or people changed his words.

d. Christ-and Christians are not really uncommon. The Corinthians started to say they believed in Jesus and...other preachers of their day.

1 Corinthians 1:12 Now this I say, that every one of you says, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. 13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

e. The Galatians believed in Jesus and in keeping the law for their salvation. By believing this they were blaspheming

God's name and were separated from his salvation. You cannot be close friends with those who do this! It is not in that person's interest!

Galatians 5:4 You have become estranged 隔绝 from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

f. The largest group of Christ-and Christians are those who say they believe in Jesus and in themselves. So they offer good works, believing that good works contribute to their salvation. Other might say: "He is a good man who always helps the poor." "He always takes care of his family." He always puts extra amount of money in the offering box." One preacher said: These people want to seal the deal 达成协议 and take some of the glory and credit that belongs to Jesus Christ alone.

**3. But Jesus hates sharing his glory with any other.** He alone is the Savior and cannot stand anyone taking any part of his glory, and he cannot stand when you give glory to another but to him alone. The fact that the Lord wants all glory is a difficult concept for us to understand or accept. We are taught to give credit to others, and to think of others are better than ourselves. (Philippians 2:3) But we are taught to think this way because of our sinfulness. But Jesus is not like we, he is perfect and he does perfectly. He therefore deserves full glory for what he has done. Christ-and Christianity is a serious sin.

**4. Since Jesus was the perfect Savior there is not beside him to help him.** No one can help him. If he needed someone to help him he would not have been a perfect Savior. But only he was fit, willing, and able to do what he did for you on the cross. So to add anyone or anything alongside Christ's work is a serious sin.

Colossians 1:19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell 住在, 20 and by Him to reconcile 成就 all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

So you need no one or nothing else to fill in empty spaces in your life. Christ is your all in all. You could be a single all your life, you could be poor all your life, you could have a minimum wage job all your life – and still be fulfilled – because Christ gives you true satisfaction.

Colossians 2:10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power 执政掌权者的元首.

**5. How do you get that full satisfaction? You have fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ, your personal Savior from sins.** You walk with him and he walks with you. He speaks to you through his Word and you speak to him through prayer. He cares for you like none other can or will want to do. The person who feels that his life is empty because he has lost a job, a spouse, a friendship, a child, a position...has not come to terms with the riches he has in Christ.

1John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin.

## **Conclusion:**

Jesus Christ came in real human flesh, lived a life of perfect obedience, humbled himself to death on the cross – being your scapegoat 替罪羊 – even a social pariah 贱民, being buried to show that he really died, and then triumphantly rising from the dead on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day to secure your salvation. There is no other way to be saved. Don't try to find another way. Those who do will be lost. Those who believe in Jesus and something or someone else (including themselves) for their salvation will go to hell.

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ: Consider how good God is to you... how he has shown you that Christ is the only way to be saved... how he has moved you to believe in Jesus Christ... how he has given you his Holy Spirit to convince you to keep your trust in Christ... God did not have to do it for you but he did. This is the one you want to have as your friend... as your Father... as your Savior... What riches! But this privilege position has some responsibility 原则性的责任. You are to love God back and love your neighbor. You are to worship God and work for the good of your neighbor. Are you? I hope so.

Finally: The Jews rejected Jesus. Some would spit 吐 when they heard that name. Yet, it was looking to that name, and that name alone, that would save them from their sins. Would you too ignore the only one who could save you from your sins? May you not do so, but may you call on the name of Jesus to save you from your sins, knowing that he died for sinners such as you. If you don't do it now, you will still one day have to accept that he is the one and only true God...but with no hope of salvation then.