

HC 29-30 – The One Who Charms Our Fears

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Joe Carter was a hero for Torontonians in 1993 when he hit a 3-run homer in the bottom of the 9th inning to give the Blue Jays their 2nd championship in 2 years. He brought great excitement to us. People forgot about their troubles and enjoyed the moment. But what joy does Joe Carter bring now? Torontonians hope that Jose Bautista might do the same. But after a while they will have to hope for another “joy-bringer” as Bautista will get old and lose his skill and eyesight. These men can only bring temporary joy.

But there is a name that charms your fears ...and one who gives you permanent joy. He is the only one who can save you from your sins - from death, hell, and judgment -permanently. You don't need another. There isn't another who can do this – only Jesus. You will hear about this one today.

Our headings are:

Only “Jesus Only” People have Salvation

No “Jesus And” People have Salvation

Our goals are: That you will rejoice that you have Jesus to save you, you will be warned not to put anything alongside Jesus, and that you will reject as your close relations those who reject the exclusivity排他性 of Jesus for salvation.

Only “Jesus Only” People have salvation

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未婚 mother was not reason to praise God, but because Jesus was her Savior she had reason to rejoice欣喜.

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."

It was not uncommon in Bible and even in many cultures to name children with an expectation of what they might be...or with a desire the parents may have for their children...or in order to express the parents' view of God. This is why many names of the Bible ending in “yah” or beginning with “yah.” (Yah-el – Joel – Jehovah is God, Jedidiah – Beloved of Jehovah.) It was not common to name one’s child after entertainers or athletes...but after names of substance. So no one would name their daughter “Pippa” after Princess Kate’s sister, and Malia, after President Obama’s daughters . They have done nothing of substance.

Now Jesus’ name in Hebrew is “Yah-shua,” “Jehovah (Jah) saves (shua).” So Jesus’ name represented his work and Joseph was commanded to name his child Jesus.

2. While the name “Jesus” was not specifically used in the Old Testament, Jesus’ person and future work are clearly described.

So Jesus was mentioned in the Old Testament. The Jews looked to the same Savior, they had the same Gospel, they had the same faith, and they were therefore brought into the same church.

Isaiah 53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief哀思. 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.

This salvation was a spiritual work. This salvation was not salvation from human enemies (Romans, Greeks, Medo-Persians, Babylonians, or Assyrians.) In 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始祖 and the prophets先知, 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 to save 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.

Apostle Paul said that Jesus humbled himself to come down from heaven to save sinful wretches 坏蛋 like you. Philippians 2.

4. Christ's work of saving sinners like you was an exclusive独家 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.

1Timothy 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 4:12 "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. If people say that that new prophet has a new way of salvation, you must reject them as brothers.

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

When Judah ran to Egypt with their fine horses and great warriors to save them when Nebuchadnezzar came to take them captive, God made it clear that that would be their destruction. Judah was destroyed because they 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一个女仆看她的女主人。.

Psalm 123:2 ... 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.

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow. Why bow to anyone who has to bow to Jesus?

5. After Jesus saves a sinner he keeps him safe. He does not leave his work half-finished. The sinner then does not need any other person to finish off the work (as Muslims claim). The believer continues to receive what Christ gives to him daily—free of cost. He doesn't give to charity to earn forgiveness.

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

No “Jesus And” People have Salvation

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. Close to 2,000,000,000 people in the world, claim to be Christians. No serious Christian believes this. But, you might argue, if someone claims to be a Christian should you not trust him and accept what he says? No, not really. The one who is a Christian has to prove he is a Christian by his life, not just his testimony^{正词}. The most notable way of proving that many are not Christians as they claim is that they include other things and people alongside of Christ for their salvation.

2. Let's examine some “Jesus-and” people.

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? Can you imagine Jesus saying: If I don't hear your prayer, pray to a saint so your prayer will be more effective? Didn't Mary send the disciples to Jesus?

c. Muslims believe in Jesus (not really, but they say they do) and the Koran. They 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," people changed his words (as Muslims argue).

d. The Corinthians started to say they believed in Jesus and...other preachers of their day.

1Corinthians 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 10 laws** for their salvation. Don't be close friends with those who do this! It is not in that person's interest...it is not in your interest.

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

f. The largest group of Christ-and people **are those who say they believe in Jesus and in themselves**. They offer good works, believing that good works contribute to their salvation. Others might say: "He is a good man who always helps the poor." "He always takes care of his family." He always puts extra money for the Word and Deed orphans."

One preacher said: **[Christ-and] people want to seal the deal and take some of the glory and credit that belongs to Jesus Christ alone.**

3. But Jesus hates sharing his glory. He alone is Savior and cannot stand anyone taking any part of his glory, and he cannot stand when you give glory to another.

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. **Jesus is not like we. He is perfect and 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 none 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. Only he was fit, willing, and able to do what he did for you on the cross. To add anyone (or thing) alongside Christ's work is a serious sin.

Colossians 1:19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile 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 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.

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.** He should.

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, became your scapegoat替罪羊, was buried to show that he really died, and then triumphantly rose from the dead on the 3rd day to secure your salvation保护您的救赎. 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 for their salvation will go to hell.

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. 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.

2. This is the one you want to have as your friend...as your Father...as your Savior... What riches!

3. This privileged position has some responsibility. 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?

Finally: Some Jews would spit when they heard Jesus' 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? Or will you call on the name of Jesus to save you from your sins. If you don't do it, you will still one day have to accept that he is the one and only true God...but with no hope of salvation then.