

In Christ Alone

Acts 4: 10-12

Our text today follows a time of great excitement and anticipation within the lives of the early believers. Christ had ascended back to the Father, and while they met the Holy Spirit came down in great power, filling each of them. Peter preached with great boldness and countless souls were being saved by the grace of God. As Peter and John made their way to the Temple during the hour of prayer, a man lame from his mother's womb lay at the beautiful gate begging. Through the power of Jesus' name the man was healed and many were astounded.

Although about 5,000 men were saved through the power and provision of Christ, all were not happy. The priests and Sadducees arrested Peter and John for preaching in the name of Jesus. The following morning they were brought before the council to be questioned in regard to the previous day's events. The rulers could not deny that a great miracle had been performed and they demanded to know how this had transpired. During the interrogation, Peter makes one of the most profound statements in the Scriptures. He reveals this man was made whole through the power of Jesus Christ.

I want to take a few moments to consider the [certainties](#) of Peter's words as we think on the blessedness of being: [In Christ Alone](#).

I. A Confident Word (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.](#) Although the rulers were enraged and skeptical, Peter remained boldly confident in the Lord and the message he preached. His confidence was founded in:

A. The Gospel (10a) – [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...](#) Peter isn't shy or embarrassed to proclaim that Jesus Christ had made the difference in the life of the lame man. He boldly reminds them that they had consented to His death, crucifying Jesus on the cross, but the cross had not been the end. Christ had risen triumphant from the grave by the power of God. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead had brought about transformation in the life of the lame man. It was this power that resulted in the salvation of 5,000 men the day before. Many continued to reject the Lord and the Gospel message, but Peter was confident!

- The Gospel remains the central theme of time and humanity. It is the message of salvation in Christ. He died upon the cross, bearing our sin and enduring the judgment of God in our place. Through His sacrificial death, reconciliation to God was made. Had the cross been the end, we

would yet be without hope, but Christ rose in power and glory. His resurrection from the dead provided eternal life for all who believe. Doubters and skeptics remain today, but their unbelief does not hinder or detract from the power of the Gospel.

B. The Grace (10b) – [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*](#). The lame man was laid by the beautiful gate near the Temple in Jerusalem every day. He would have been known to all who were familiar with the Temple, going up for prayer and worship. Some were likely compassionate toward him, but most ignored him. He was in desperate need of healing and no one had been able to do anything about his condition. That all changed the day he met Peter and experienced the power of Jesus Christ. This man was a mere beggar, having nothing to offer society, and yet he was the recipient of grace. His life was totally transformed by the power of Jesus Christ!

- Peter knew grace was available to all who look to Christ by faith. There were no other prerequisites, just faith. The lame man stands as a picture of us all. In reality we were all in a desperate condition, unable to do anything to reconcile ourselves. We were crippled by sin and stood in need of someone to bring about transformation. We had nothing to offer, and through grace, received everything. Christ had compassion and showered this man with grace, just as He does everyone in need of salvation!

II. A Convincing Word (11) – [This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner](#). Peter was confident in Christ, and he was also convinced of His power and provision. Consider:

A. The Rejection (11a) – [This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders](#). The prophets of old had prophesied of the coming Messiah. Jesus came to earth according to God's eternal plan, fulfilling every prophecy of His first advent. For those who considered His life upon earth and the Word of God, there could be no doubt that Jesus was the Christ. However, the religious elite rejected Jesus as the Christ. They viewed Him as an imposter, a blasphemer and rebel. They consented to His death, conspiring to rid Jerusalem and the world of this man.

- This attitude continues to permeate society. When the evidence is examined, there can be no doubt that Jesus was the Christ. His life is proven through the Word of God and historical records and yet most reject Jesus as the Christ. They refuse to embrace Him as the sole means of salvation. They depend on works, religious traditions, and morality, while denying the finished work of Christ for salvation. [1 Peter 2:6-8 – Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay](#)

in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. ^[7] Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, ^[8] And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

B. The Exaltation (11b) – This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, **which is become the head of the corner**. The majority may have rejected Jesus as the Christ, but their denial did not change His deity and atonement. Mankind may have rejected Christ, but He had been established as the Cornerstone. He is the foundation upon which our salvation and faith rests. Men may deny Him, but God has highly exalted Him. He finished the work He came to accomplish, fully and finally satisfying the righteous demands of the Father!

- Many today want nothing to do with Jesus Christ of Nazareth. They deny His deity and refuse to submit to His authority. This world will never embrace Jesus as the Christ, but He has a name above every name. Either in this life through salvation, or in the one to come in judgment, all will bow the knee and proclaim that Jesus is the Christ, Lord of all. *Phil.2:9-11 – Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: ^[10] That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ^[11] And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

III. A Convicting Word (12) – Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. Peter knew the majority would not believe, but he shared undeniable truth with them anyway. They may reject his message, but they would face it again as they stood before God. These words bring conviction, and through that there is hope. Consider:

A. Salvation is Exclusive (12a) – Neither is there salvation in any other. The Sanhedrin and religious elite refused to embrace Christ, seeking to obtain righteousness through their own efforts. Peter proclaimed their efforts would never be enough. Salvation was in Christ, and in Christ alone. There was no other way!

- This attitude continues today. The majority reject the finished work of Christ on the cross, seeking to secure acceptance to God through their own works and efforts. These will never provide acceptance or access to God. Salvation has always been, and will continue to be in Christ

alone. [John 14:6](#) – Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

B. Salvation is Expected (12b) – [Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.](#) Peter affirms that salvation is in Christ alone. There is no other means; no other way! However, we find an encouraging aspect in these words. Peter declares we must be saved. Through that he reveals the desire of God for humanity. Christ's death on the cross was not in vain. It wasn't a tragic accident. His death was intentional, planned before the foundation of the world. He died so we might receive salvation. He purchased our redemption upon the cross.

- It has been some 2,000 years and yet the provision of salvation remains today. Christ fully and eternally provided the sole means of salvation. The grace of God is still being extended today and God expects us to respond to the call of salvation, believing in Christ by faith. [Titus 2:11](#) – [For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.](#) [Rom.10:12-13](#) – [For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.](#) ^[13] [For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.](#)

Conclusion: Peter shared the miraculous power of Christ that brings salvation to all who believe. I am thankful that I heard the Gospel message and had the opportunity to receive Christ as my Lord and Savior. You have heard the truth today. How will you respond? If you have not believed in Christ by faith, you remain in sin, separated and condemned of God. There is hope for you though. If you are yet unsaved, I urge you to come to Christ today, realizing your need of salvation, repenting of sin, and believing on Him by faith. You can receive salvation today!