

Londonderry Free Presbyterian Church



“MAN’S SOLITARY SAVIOUR: THE SCRIPTURES ARE SIGNPOSTS TO CHRIST”

by Dr. Ian Brown (7-20-2008)

Scripture Text: **Acts 13:23**

Bible Reading: **Acts 13:14-43**

*“Of this man’s seed
hath God
according to His promise
raised unto Israel a Saviour,
Jesus.”*

Over the course of the past couple of months, I have received some emails from a long-standing internet friend, Scott McMahan, expressing his appreciation of the plain gospel preaching that takes place in our country. On 16 June 2008, he wrote:

“I think Northern Ireland’s #1 export is the gospel.

On Saturday afternoon, I listened to your Internet presentation at Coleraine that they posted, where you talked about people in America downloading your messages. I had just gotten a flier in the mail from a new church just down the street from where I live. They believe, ‘in the value of meaningful worship, practical Bible teaching, and real life relationships’ and believe the Bible ‘provides us with a standard for living out the relationship God desires us to have with him, with each other and with all people.’

*There’s **no** mention of sin, repentance, the blood of Christ, or anything even remotely doctrinal or in line with any historical confession of faith.*

There's a church on almost every corner, but you could live your entire life in America and never hear the traditional Reformed gospel."

He followed this statement up with another one on 15 July 2008:

"I found another church with no gospel over the weekend. It's been around a while and I knew they existed, but didn't know much about them and downloaded a few messages from their web site to see what they said. ... I listened to one message at random - I did not know it was an Easter message until the end. It was about your amazing future, and the only thing even remotely resembling the gospel was asking you to make God your ally. Not savior, not Lord, but ally! The pastor said you need to have God allied with you. (Right, not even saying you need to be allied with God). At no time in this Easter message was anything even remotely resembling the gospel mentioned. He did not mention the resurrection. They mention Jesus, but never why He died or resurrected.

I dialed up another message pretty much at random, and it started with a testimony. But it wasn't a Christian testimony. It didn't mention sin, conviction, repentance, or anything remotely like a Christian message. The testimony basically amounted to her feeling better about herself by going to this church. She mentioned being closer to God, in the most vague terms.

This is the third church like this I've found in my area. What they remind me of is George Orwell's 1984, where language and history are changed to make it impossible to think certain thoughts. People no longer have the ability to think the gospel message. They (including the church preachers) have never been exposed to the historical gospel, and just don't have the ability to articulate or think it. The churches are not a cult or trying to deceive people like the JW and so on. They just have no idea what the gospel is and probably have never heard it. The speaker at this church is a good motivational speaker, who wants to help people live better lives through personal improvement. That was certainly my case - I had never heard the historical Reformed gospel until I started researching my family tree and found out about Scottish Presbyterianism.

So keep exporting!"

"It pleased God," says Paul in **1 Corinthians 1:21**, "by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."

The word translated "preaching," (*kerygma*), does not bring into focus the action of the preacher, but that which he preaches – his "message."

A *keryx* may be a town crier, an auctioneer, a herald, or anyone who lifts up his voice and claims public attention to some definite thing he has to announce. It is the “definite thing” that he announces that is supremely important.

Apostolic preaching ... what was it like? What - and how - did they preach?

Immediately I think of Paul’s bold, uncompromising assertion in **1 Corinthians 1:23**: “We preach Christ crucified” – a text that is prominently displayed in many of the buildings belonging to our own denomination.

So what were the chief elements of preaching “Christ crucified”?

When you work your way through **the Book of Acts** and **the Epistles** of Paul (and other general epistles), some fundamental elements in the preaching of the apostles become clear. They announced that:

- The prophecies are fulfilled, and they centre on the person and work of the Christ who has come into our world;

- He was born of the seed of David;

- He died according to the Scriptures, to deliver us from sin;

- He was buried;

- He rose on the third day according to the Scriptures;

- He is exalted at the right hand of God, as Son of God and Lord of quick and dead;

- He will come again as Judge and Saviour of men.

When Paul stood up in the synagogue in Antioch of Pisidia and took up the invitation to speak some words of exhortation to the people, his message was instantly recognisable as a presentation of the salvation that is in Christ alone.

Acts 13:23 is a fair summary of his preaching: “**Of this man’s seed hath God according to His promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus.**”

Christ is so obviously central!

[1] THE EXPRESSION OF THE SCRIPTURES

CENTRES ON CHRIST.

In the course of his preaching, Paul states (**Acts 13:23**), **“Of this man’s seed hath God according to His promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus.”**

Christ Jesus was not some accidental time traveller in history who just happened to appear at the time He did. Rather, He came in precise and perfect answer to all that God had predicted of Him through the messages of all His prophets. He slotted into God’s plan for this universe perfectly!

In this sermon delivered in the synagogue at Antioch, Paul noted that Jesus, **in fulfillment of Scripture:**

- *Was born into the tribe and family of David; Acts 13:23: “Of this man's seed hath God according to His promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus.”*

- *Suffered the condemnation of wicked men, and was crucified as our Substitute as He bore the penalty of our sins; Acts 13:27-29: “For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew Him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled [them] in condemning [Him]. 28 And though they found no cause of death [in Him], yet desired they Pilate that He should be slain.”*

- *After crucifixion, was buried; Acts 13:29: “And when they had fulfilled all that was written of Him, they took [Him] down from the tree, and laid [Him] in a sepulchre.”*

- *Rose from the dead; Acts 13:32-34: “And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, 33 God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. 34 And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, [now] no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David.”*

- *Remained in the grave for three days and then rose from it without His body undergoing any corruption; Acts 13:35-37: “Wherefore he saith also in another [psalm], Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 36 For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption: 37 But He, whom God raised again, saw no corruption.”*

A Saviour ... according to God's plan and promise!!

“Of this man's seed hath God according to His promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus.”

The word **“promise”** (epaggelia) points us to the announcement, or pledge, or a promised good or blessing.

Throughout the Old Testament, good was promised – and every shred of this good was stored up and centred in the Messiah.

Over and over again Jesus appealed to the prophecies of the Old Testament to substantiate His claims as the Messiah.

- For example, to those two weary disciples on the Road to Emmaus, “And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself” (**Luke 24:27**).

The **44th verse of the same chapter** records how Jesus said to them, “These [are] the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and [in] the prophets, and [in] the psalms, concerning Me.”

By these statements our Lord was indicating that all Scripture points to Him.

- Our Lord also said, in **John 5:46**: “For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed Me: for he wrote of Me.”

- And again in **John 8:56**, “Abraham rejoiced to see My day.”

The apostles, the New Testament writers, etc., constantly appealed to fulfilled prophecy to substantiate the claims of Jesus as the Son of God, the Saviour, the Messiah.

- **Acts 3:18**: “But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, He hath so fulfilled.”

- **Acts 17:2&3**: “And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, 3 Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.”

• **1 Corinthians 15:3&4:** “For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures [in other words, Christ's death was prophesied in the Old Testament]; 4 And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures.”

A book written by Robert Weaver was published in 1829 ... ‘The Scriptures Fulfilled: Or, The Bible the Word of God:’ in seven lectures on the fulfilment of Scripture prophecies, especially those whose fulfilment may be seen in the present day.

There is plenty of scope for such a book.

In the Old Testament there are 60 major messianic prophecies and approximately 270 ramifications that were fulfilled in one person, the Lord Jesus Christ.

We live in an age of information technology ... and, increasingly, of a time of invasion of privacy, where all kinds of data concerning us is held on computers across the globe!

- ‘Google’ stirred up a storm this week when its intentions became known to post up a detailed view of our streets and properties for everyone to see on the web;

- and further consternation was caused by a Government plan to log all of our activity, including the emails and texts we send, and the mobile phone conversations we make, etc..

All of a sudden the shock we used to feel when we discovered that an organisation / business possessed our home address and telephone number almost fades into insignificance!

The details of our name and address set us apart from the 6 billion other people who also inhabit this planet.

Postcodes in the UK were introduced by Royal Mail over a 15-year period from 1959 to 1974. The first postcodes were introduced on a trial basis in Norwich in 1959 with the first three characters of the code (‘NOR’) representing the name of the city, and the last three characters of a particular street.

At the basic level, we could consider all the biblical predictions that were fulfilled in Christ as His “address.”

With infinitely greater precision than our postcode system, God wrote an address in history to single out His Son, the Messiah, the Saviour of mankind, from anyone who has ever lived in history - past, present, or future. Certainly God was writing an address in history that only the Messiah could fulfill.

Approximately 40 major claims to be the Jewish Messiah have been made by men. Only one - our Lord Jesus Christ - appealed to fulfilled prophecy to substantiate His claims, and only His credentials back up those claims.

Remind us of some of those details?

- The first detail of this 'Messianic Address' takes us way back to **Genesis 3:15**: "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

This is the first messianic prophecy. In all of Scripture, only one man was "born of the seed of a woman" - all others are born of the seed of a man. Here is the one who will come into the world and undo the works of Satan ("bruise His head").

- In **Genesis 9 and 10** God narrowed the address down further.

Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Today, all of the nations of the world can be traced back to these three men. But in this passage, God effectively eliminated two-thirds of them from the line of Messiahship. The Messiah will come through the lineage of Shem.

- Continuing on to the year 2000 B.C., we find God calling a man named Abraham out of Ur of the Chaldees.

With Abraham, God became still more specific, stating that the Messiah will be one of his descendants (**Genesis 12; 17; 22**). All the families of the earth will be blessed through Abraham. Abraham had two sons, Isaac and Ishmael, but many of his descendants were eliminated when God selected his second son, Isaac (**Genesis 17:21**).

- Isaac had two sons, Jacob and Esau, and God chose the line of Jacob (**Genesis 28; 35:10-12; Numbers 24:17**).

- Jacob had twelve sons, out of whom developed the twelve tribes of Israel. God singled out the tribe of Judah for Messiahship and therefore eliminated 11/12ths of the Israelite tribes.

- To narrow it down further, of all the family lines within the tribe of Judah, the line of Jesse was the divine choice (**Isaiah 11:1-5**).

With this kind of widescale elimination and ever-narrowing focus, we can certainly see the probability of Jesus being the Messiah soaring.

- Jesse had eight children, and in **2 Samuel 7:12-16** and **Jeremiah 23:5**, God eliminated 7/8ths of Jesse's family line.

So this Book clearly documents that God's Man will not only be of the seed of a woman, the lineage of Shem, the race of the Jews, the line of Isaac, the line of Jacob, the tribe of Judah, but that He will also be of the house of David.

To narrow the options even more significantly

- A prophecy dating 1012 B.C. (**Psalms 22:6-18**; cf. **Zechariah 12:10** and **Galatians 3:13**) also predicts that this man's hands and feet will be pierced (i.e., He will be crucified). This description was written a full 800 years before crucifixion began to be practiced by the Romans!

- **Isaiah 7:14** adds that this man will be born of a virgin - a natural birth of unnatural conception, a criterion beyond human planning and control.

- In **Micah 5:2** God eliminated all the cities of the world and selected Bethlehem, with a population of less than 1000, as the Messiah's birthplace.

Several prophecies recorded in Isaiah and the psalms describe **the social climate and response** that God's man will encounter:

- His own people, the Jews, will reject Him and the Gentiles will believe in Him (**Isaiah 8:14; 28:16; 49:6; 50:6; 52:53; 60:3; Psalms 22:7,8; 118:22**).

- A forerunner will appear for Him (**Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1**), a voice in the wilderness, one preparing the way before the Lord, a trailblazer and announcer – a John the Baptist.

Then, through a series of prophecies, God even defined **the time sequence** that would set His Man apart.

- For example, **Malachi 3:1** and four other Old Testament verses (**Psalms 118:26; Daniel 9:26; Zechariah 11:13; Haggai 2:7-9**) require the Messiah to come while the Temple of Jerusalem is still standing. This is of great significance

when we realise that the Temple was destroyed in A.D. 70 and has not since been rebuilt.

And additional details *within* some of the prophecies make fulfilment by any other person totally remote; effectively impossible.

Consider the prophecy that stated that Messiah would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver.

There are at least seven ramifications of this prophecy (**Zechariah 11:11-13**; cf. **Psalm 41, Jeremiah 32:6-15, and Matthew 27:3-10**) that narrow the drama down even further.

In this prediction, God indicates the Messiah will be:

- (1) betrayed,
- (2) by a friend,
- (3) for thirty pieces,
- (4) of silver, that will be
- (5) cast onto the floor,
- (6) of the Temple, and
- (7) used to buy a potter's field.

... seven unique parts to the one prophecy!

The precise lineage; the place, time, and manner of birth; people's reactions; the betrayal; the manner of death. These are just a fraction of the hundreds of details that made up 'the address' to identify God's Son, the Messiah, the Saviour of the world.

And to those who dismissively say that such Fulfilled Prophecy was purely coincidental ... "*You could find some of these prophecies fulfilled in Bush, Brown, Chirac, etc. ...*"

You could possibly find one or two prophecies fulfilled in other men, *but not all 60 major prophecies and 270 ramifications!*

In a book endorsed by H. Harold Artzler, of the American Scientific Affiliation, Peter W. Stoner examines the evidence about the Messiah and shows that coincidence is ruled out by the science of probability.

Stoner says that by using the modern science of probability in reference to **just 8 prophecies**, *“we find that the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled all eight prophecies is 1 in 10¹⁷.”* That would be 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000.

These prophecies were either given by inspiration of God, or the prophets just wrote them as they thought they should be. In such a case the prophets had just one chance in 10¹⁷ of having them come true in any man, **but they all came true in Christ!**

Why did God go to all this trouble?

No doubt He wanted Jesus Christ to have all the credentials He needed when He came into the world. He came with a full, unmistakable ‘address’!

However, the most exciting thing about our Lord Jesus Christ is that He came to convert souls and change lives (**Luke 19:10**). He alone proved the hundreds of Old Testament prophecies that described His coming to be correct. He alone can fulfill the greatest prophecy of all for those who will accept it - the promise of new life:

- **Ezekiel 36:25-27**: “... A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you ...”;
- **2 Corinthians 5:17**: “Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

Therefore we may conclude that:

- **the promise / Word of God is absolutely true!**
- **the purpose of God cannot be thwarted!**

It was Jesus who said in **John 10:35**, “The Scripture cannot be broken.” It is impossible to destroy Bible's validity, power, authority, and permanence.

“Of this man’s seed hath God according to His promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus.”

[1] The Expression of the Scriptures centres on Christ;

[2] THE ELEVATION OF THE SALVATION CENTRES ON CHRIST.

“Of this man’s seed hath God according to His promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus.”

This word “**raise**” carries a wealth of significance.

It was a word used of ...

- **Christ’s BIRTH; Luke 1:69-71:** “And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; 70 As He spake by the mouth of His holy prophets, which have been since the world began: 71 That we should be saved”

- A similar word is used of **Christ’s DEATH.**

Jesus Himself, in a reference to the brass serpent that was fashioned in the days of Moses so that all who had been smitten by disease could look to the serpent and find immediate recovery from that disease (**Numbers 21**), said that He must be lifted up to bring life to men:

- **John 3:14&15:** “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: 15 That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

- **John 8:28:** “Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am [he], and [that] I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.”

- **John 12:32&33:** “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all [men] unto me. 33 This He said, signifying what death He should die.”

Properly, the *death* of Christ is part of His Humiliation, not of His Exaltation.

However, in a sermon preached by C.H. Spurgeon, on Sabbath Morning, November 2, 1856, at New Park Street Chapel, Southwark (this was Spurgeon's first message following the disaster at the Music Hall, Royal Surrey Gardens—in which seven people lost their lives when some thoughtless persons purposely

started a panic while Mr. Spurgeon was preaching), entitled, 'The Exaltation of Christ,' the great preacher had this to say:

“Consider Him further still. Do you mark Him in your imagination nailed to yonder cross! ... Behold Him! The bulls of Bashan gird him round, and the dogs are hounding him to death! Hear Him! ‘Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?’

The earth startles with affright. A God is groaning on a cross!

What! Does not this dishonour Christ?

No; it honours Him!

Each of the thorns becomes a brilliant gem in His diadem of glory; the nails are forged into His sceptre, and his wounds do clothe Him with the purple of empire. The treading of the wine-press hath stained his garments, but not with stains of scorn and dishonour. The stains are embroideries upon his royal robes for ever. The treading of that wine-press hath made His garments purple with the empire of a world; and He is the Master of a universe for ever.

He in some way, mysterious yet true, was exalted because He suffered.”

To return to our word “**raised.**”

“Of this man’s seed hath God according to His promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus.”

- This is also used of **Christ’s RESURRECTION** (**Matthew 16:21, Matthew 17:23, Matthew 28:6&7**).

- And of Him being raised up in glory - **CORONATION**.

• Peter and the apostles said (**Acts 5:30&31**): “The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. 31 Him hath God exalted with His right hand [to be] a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.”

• Paul, in **Ephesians 1:20&21** affirms *both* the resurrection (“... He raised him from the dead ...”), and the coronation (“... and set [Him] at His own right hand in the heavenly [places]. Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come.”

Christ's exaltation was plainly fourfold:

- resurrection,
- ascension,
- coronation,
- and intercession.

He rose from the dead and ascended into heaven . There He is seated on the throne of God to intercede as High Priest of His people. He sympathises with us (**Hebrews 4:14&15**), and makes “intercession for us” (**Hebrews 7:25**).

From the tree of Calvary our Lord was lifted up to the throne of Glory.

- Raised upon a tree,
- Raised up from the tomb,
- Raised up through the clouds onto the throne ...

... there is no doubt that Paul chose the correct word when he stated concerning Christ the Messiah that, “... **God according to His promise *raised* unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus.**”

• And (let us always remember for our comfort and challenge), our Lord Jesus was raised up TO RAISE US UP!

**Hail the heav'nly Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth,**

... was how Charles Wesley put it.

In **the 26th verse of Acts 13**, Paul explains, “... to you is the word of this salvation sent.”

The Gospel, once accepted and believed with the heart, raises us!

All believers will follow Christ in His exaltation. We will experience resurrection. We will also ascend. When in heaven we will experience coronation, for we will sit with Christ on His throne. We will no longer need our Lord's intercessory ministry for the work of transformation will be complete. The path of glory Jesus followed, beginning with His resurrection, is the path we too will follow. This is God's promise.

“Of this man’s seed hath God according to His promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus.”

[1] The Expression of the Scriptures centres on Christ;

[2] The Elevation of the Salvation centres on Christ;

[3] THE EXCLUSIVITY OF THE SAVIOUR CENTRES ON CHRIST.

Acts 13:23: “Of this man’s seed hath God according to His promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus.”

Quick question: how many saviours does Paul identify in his message at Antioch?

... One!

Of this man’s seed hath God according to His promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus.”

Paul points in **one** direction - and in **one** direction only.

And he gives further emphasis to this truth in:

• **v38:** “Be it known unto you therefore, men [and] brethren, that **through this man** is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins”;

• **v39:** “And **by Him** all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.”

What Paul claims is an echo of Peter’s preaching in **Acts 4:12:** “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

This was not merely Peter (or Paul's) private opinion, or the best interpretation of what the Bible meant in these passages when it pointed to Christ as the exclusive Saviour.

Peter is standing before the Sadducees after being arrested for preaching the gospel. During the course of the interrogation, the Bible notes in **the 8th verse** that Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and was therefore speaking under His guidance (cf. **Luke 12:11&12**). This is important because it shows that the statement to follow in **Acts 4:12** came from God Himself and was not Peter's private interpretation.

The Christian gospel explicitly declares that salvation has and can only be provided through the work of Jesus Christ.

Not that the world accepts this, of course.

Two recently published books share the same title, 'Is Jesus The Only Savior?' ... one by James R. Edwards (professor of biblical languages and literature at Whitworth College, Spokane, Washington); the other by Ronald H. Nash (professor of philosophy and theology at Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, Florida).

Why are such books necessary?

Simply because the days in which we live are those in which people take pride in their inclusivism and/or pluralism. They instruct us not to be so narrow-minded in our interpretation - and insist that there are many ways to God, that Christ is not the only way, that people of all faiths and none still make it into heaven!

Both outside and inside the church, voices are raised that question the exclusivity of Christ for salvation.

- Over the years, talkshow host Oprah Winfrey may have warmed the hearts of tens of millions of viewers throughout the world. In more recent times, however, her show has taken a disturbing trend of presenting more 'spiritual' content, particularly new age ideas and philosophies.

On one show Oprah stated, *"There couldn't possibly be just one way."*

When asked by a woman in the audience, *"What about Jesus?"* Oprah answered by repeating the question, *"What about Jesus?"*

Oprah continued by implying that even if you never heard the name Jesus but lived with a loving heart you could get to heaven.

And as for those ‘inside the church’?

- Prosperity Gospel ‘coverboy,’ Joel Osteen, was asked during his famous interview on Larry King Live:

KING: What if you’re Jewish or Muslim, you don’t accept Christ at all?

OSTEEN: You know, I’m very careful about saying who would and wouldn’t go to heaven. I don’t know ...

At this point, even Larry King appears surprised by Osteen’s answer. Then Larry tosses Osteen a soft question to explain his previous answer. And again Osteen openly denies that Jesus Christ is the ONLY way of salvation.

KING: If you believe you have to believe in Christ? They’re wrong, aren’t they?

OSTEEN: Well, I don’t know if I believe they’re wrong. I believe here’s what the Bible teaches and from the Christian faith this is what I believe. But I just think that only God will judge a person’s heart. I spent a lot of time in India with my father. I don’t know all about their religion. But I know they love God. And I don’t know. I’ve seen their sincerity. So I don’t know. I know for me, and what the Bible teaches, I want to have a relationship with Jesus.

Unbelievable ... ! His answers were less than impressive - and far from biblical!

Paul had no hesitation in **Acts 13:23** in preaching that *only Jesus saves*: “**Of this man’s seed hath God according to [His] promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus.**”

He makes the same point in **1 Timothy 2:5**: “For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus”

And this is simply a repetition of Christ’s teaching with respect to personal salvation in **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’” – a description that calls to mind His previous statement that He was the door to salvation (**John 10:9**): “I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.”

If Christ is the door (singular) and is the personal way to the Father, then this would exclude any “way” that does not see Christ as the personal path to the Father. In this Jesus Christ presents an insurmountable problem for the pluralist.

We are back where we started

How did the apostles preach?

They preached ... Christ.

And He will be the central theme of any true Christian pulpit. The true minister of God to your heart will point you to the Lord Jesus Christ as the only Saviour of men! **“Of this man’s seed hath God according to His promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus.”**

It is impossible to improve on the simplicity and directness of the children’s chorus:

**One way, God said, to get to heaven –
Jesus is the only way**

No other way, no other way