

# Paul Brunning: 10 April 2022

## You killed the Prince of Life (Acts 3:13-19)

### (Sermon Summary)

Every human life is precious, but the Lord Jesus is uniquely precious because He is God in the flesh, sinless and perfect. So in His crucifixion we are confronted with the greatest crime in history.

### Who is he?

In Acts 3, the apostle Peter is speaking to the crowd after the healing of the lame beggar. This miracle was done through the power of Jesus, and Peter explains who Jesus is:

- God's servant (v13)
- The Holy and the Just (v14)
- the Prince of Life (v15).

The word translated here as 'Prince' can mean founder, originator, ruler, or leader. It is only used four times in the New Testament, each time referring to the Lord Jesus.

Hebrews 12:2: Jesus is called the **author** of our faith.

Hebrews 2:10. He is the **captain** of our salvation.

Acts 5:31. He is our **Prince** and Saviour, exalted to God's right hand.

The words 'Prince of Life' reveal the glory of the Lord in His person and in His saving work. All life finds its origin in Him, and He rules over all life. All things were created through Him. He is also the originator of spiritual, eternal life (John 5). Those who hear His voice will live.

### What did they do to Him?

The apostles spoke very directly to the people about their guilt. Peter spoke about Jesus 'whom you crucified' and 'whom you murdered'. Stephen called the religious leaders betrayers and murderers. This was a premeditated murder which broke the sixth commandment. But on the cross, Jesus prayed for the forgiveness of His killers. He wanted them to receive the eternal life that He was purchasing - and that day, the thief was with Him in paradise. Though Jesus was murdered,

he remained in control and lay down His own life. Luke records how as He breathed His last, the crowd beat their breasts: they knew that something momentous had happened, that the Prince of Life was dead.

### **What does this mean for us?**

As He yielded up His life, Jesus was killing death, taking away the sin of the world. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were acting together in love for this sinful world. Christ accomplished God's plan to deliver us from condemnation.

He was gloriously raised and vindicated, proving that death is dead, and Christ has conquered. Death has lost the ability to drag us down to hell.

Jesus became the author of eternal salvation for all who obey Him - all those who come to Him in true repentance (v19). Repent and trust in the glorified Christ, the Prince of Life, and all the rich benefits of His life, death and resurrection will come to you. He who has the Son has life (1 John 5:12).

May God grant life through Christ to everyone here, and to the people of Crich and beyond.