

HC 29-30 – It's Jesus only, My Friend

Beloved in Jesus: In order to be saved,

Mormons say you should hold on to Jesus and Joseph Smith.

Christian Scientists say you should hold on to Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy.

Seventh Day Adventists say you should hold to Jesus and Ellen G. White.

Roman Catholics say you should hold on to Jesus and traditions.

Christians say you must hold on to Jesus and Jesus alone!

Jesus is the only one who can save you from your sins - from death, hell, and judgment - permanently. You don't need another person or another thing. There isn't another person or thing which can do this – only Jesus.

Hear about this today.

Our headings are:

Only “Jesus Only” People have Salvation

No “Jesus and” People have Salvation

Our goals are: That you **will rejoice you have Jesus to save you, you will be warned not to put anything alongside Jesus, and you will reject as your close relations those who reject the exclusivity 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 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 in Bible times 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. Josiah – Jehovah will support/heal) It was not common to name one's child after entertainers or athletes. Those people have nothing of substance to offer. **Jesus' name in Hebrew is “Yah-shua,” “Jehovah (Jah) saves (shua).”**

So Jesus' name represented his work. **Joseph was commanded to name his child Jesus**

who would save the world from her sins.

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

Want proof? The Jews had the same God, looked to the same Savior, had the same Gospel, had the same faith, and were therefore brought into the same church. There was no other OT Savior! They weren’t saved by the law!

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.

This salvation was a spiritual work. This salvation was not salvation from human enemies (Romans, Greeks, Medo-Persians, Babylonians, Assyrians, or Egyptians.)

This spiritual salvation was promised in Genesis 3, and described throughout the life of Patriarchs and the prophets. It was also illustrated through the sacrificial system and all the attendant signs and ceremonies.

3. While the Old Testament look forward to the coming of Jesus Christ, 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. He never preached salvation by obedience to God’s law!

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 Jesus humbled himself to come down from heaven to save sinful wretches like you. Philippians 2.

4. Christ’s work of saving sinners like you (and OT and NT sinners) was an exclusive work.

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 can be saved from sins. You can 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."

If someone claim to be the Savior, or claim to be a newer Savior, **you must reject him**. If people say a new prophet has a new way of salvation, **you must reject them as brothers**, because they aren't your brothers! They are deceivers.

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 be saved when Nebuchadnezzar came to take them captive, God made it clear 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.

Psalms 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 – as only he can do.

He does not leave his work half-finished. So the Christian knows he is saved and kept safe by God's Holy Spirit. The sinner does not need any other person to finish-off the work, as Muslims claim. He does not live with uncertainty of salvation!

The believer continues to receive what Christ gives to him daily—free of cost.

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.** The most notable way of proving many are not Christians as they claim is **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? The truth is Mary sent the disciples to Jesus! She couldn't help!

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," Muslims argue people changed his words. But they did not.

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?

Apostle Paul clearly rejected that notion.

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. Hear the warning to them.

Galatians 5:4 You have become estranged 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, or "he always takes care of his family," or "he always puts extra money to support orphans." That means nothing for your salvation.

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.**

So ask yourself 2 things: How many people living today are going to hell? What are you doing about it?

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 the Lord wants all glory is a difficult concept for us to accept. We are taught to give credit to others, and to think of others as better than ourselves. (Phil 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.

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, 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. Don't add anything!

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 are complete in him. (Colossians 2:10) You could be single all your life, you could be uneducated, you could be handicapped, 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.

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, body, mind, and soul, like none other can or will want to do.

The person who feels that his life is empty because he has lost a job, some money, 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, becoming your scapegoat, was buried to show he really died, and then triumphantly rose on the 3rd day to secure your salvation.

There is no other way to be saved.

Those who **try to find another way 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 Christ is the only way to be saved...how he has moved you to believe in Jesus...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! Jesus, what a friend for sinners! Consider the riches he has now given to you!

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? Are you telling them to come to Jesus!

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.