



JESUS SAVES HIS CHURCH

Acts 2:22-41

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- In MATTHEW 16:18, Jesus promised, “I will build my church, & the gates of hell will not prevail against it.”
- In this short sentence, we learn three major things: 1) Jesus owns His Church. 2) Jesus wants His Church built a specific way. 3) Jesus will never let His Church be overcome.
- And as we seek are going to look at what the Scripture says concerning the church, the first thing we need to understand is that **JESUS SAVES HIS CHURCH**. Q. Saves from what? A. Imagine you received a letter from a collection agency that read, “Your debt has been paid in full.” **EPH 2:1-3** 1) spiritual deadness, 2) trespasses & sins, 3) worldly living, 4) satan & demons, 5) a sin nature, & 6) the wrath of God. Q. But how?

1. JESUS SAVES HIS CHURCH BY HIS WORK IN THEIR PLACE

ACTS 2:22-24 22 “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man **attested** to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you **crucified and killed** by the hands of lawless men. 24 **God raised him up**, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

- No one ultimately needs a Life Coach, Self-Help Expert, or a Motivational Speaker. We need a Savior. And we have one. His name is Jesus of Nazareth. He lived, He died, He arose, He Saves.

2. JESUS SAVES HIS CHURCH ACCORDING TO THE DEFINITE PLAN OF GOD

ACTS 2:23 23 “this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.”

- Do you see what this mean, Christian? Jesus has not left your salvation to chance; he didn’t roll the dice; He didn’t ask people to send positive vibes his way. There was a definite plan & He accomplished it perfectly.
- When He became a man, he didn’t say, “let’s see what we can do.”; He said, “I’ve come down to do the will of my Father.” He lived with purpose completely free from sin, He died with passion for sinners, and He was raised from the dead as the Savior all according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God.
- Have you ever seen a movie or read a book that beautifully ties together all of the plot lines at the end? It’s like the Author is saying, “That was my plan the whole time.” The Gospel is like that. It’s been the plan the whole time. Every moment of History from Creation to the Cross was heading toward that moment, when Jesus would die & later arise from the dead for His people. It’s the climax of human history! It changed everything.

... THAT HAS LONG BEEN PROMISED BY THE OT PROPHETS

ACTS 2:25-36 25 For David says concerning him, (*Psalms 16*)

“I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; 26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. 27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. 28 You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.”

29 “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, 31 he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. 32 This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. 33 Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.

34 For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, (*Psalms 110:1*)

“The Lord said to my Lord, (*YHWH said to my Adonai*)

“Sit at my right hand,

35 until I make your enemies your footstool.”

3. JESUS SAVES HIS CHURCH BY CONFRONTING AND CONVICTING

ACTS 2:36-37 36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ (*presented Him with sufficient evidence*), this Jesus whom you crucified.” 37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

- **A1. The Gospel is confrontational because it first says**, “Everything you’ve been looking to your whole life to give you the sense of worth and value, can’t deliver!” **“It’s all dead or going to die.”** Leader? Country? Politician? Reputation? Money? Career? Friends? Relationship? Children? ****DID YOU NOTICE VERSE 29?*****
- **A2. Secondly, the Gospel is confrontational because it says**, “The Creator and Sustainer, the one true and living God...You’ve sinned against him. And your sin is such a big deal, He had to die for it.”

4. JESUS SAVES HIS CHURCH THROUGH REPENTANCE AND FAITH

ACTS 2:38-41 38 And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” 40 And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” 41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

- **Q. Are you cut to the heart when you realize that it’s because of YOUR sin** that Jesus hung on the cross bleeding and tormented taking the wrath of God for sin?
- **John Wesley:** Someone read from Luther's *Preface to the Epistle to Romans*. About 8:45 p.m. "while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.”
- **The gospel cuts to the heart! But not like a sword; like a scalpel. To remove your hard heart.**
- **Q. Have you repented?** Changed your mind—turned from your sin—and embraced Jesus and what He’s done in your place? Have you been baptized in water showing that you trust Him? **THIS IS HOW JESUS SAVES.**
- **Some wrongly say that Christians are just a particular kind of people raised in a particular environment**, and that’s why they trust Jesus and believe he’s both Lord and Christ. And they couldn’t be further from the truth. The whole of Church History, as well as Biblical History that’s laid out here in the book of Acts says otherwise.
- **Jesus saves the RELIGIOUS**, who are trying very hard to obey so that God would accept them—like these people here in **Acts 2**.
- **Jesus saves the REBELLIOUS**, who are indifferent to Jesus and don’t give him much thought—like the Philippian Jailor in **Acts 16**.
- **Jesus saves the RAVENOUS**, who aren’t indifferent to Jesus but flat out oppose Him and work to tear down God’s definite plan—like the Apostle Paul in **Acts 9**.
- **Q. Which are you?**
- **If Jesus has already saved you**, thank Him & praise Him for saving all types of people! **If Jesus has not saved you yet**, there’s hope! There’s no one so great a sinner that Jesus is not a greater Savior!
- **Isaiah 59:1** “Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear.”
- **As I heard Matt Chandler once say**, “This verse says ‘*Jesus doesn’t have T-Rex arms.*’”
- **Look to Jesus and His work in your place**, the definite plan of God that has been long promised in the Old Testament. Be confronted with your sinfulness, & run to the Savior in repentance & faith!
- **“The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost!” Luke 19:10**