

# Salvation in No One Else

Acts 3:17-4:12

Introduction [Simple Gospel message; What is the Gospel-excerpts; Pluralism, Relativity, Tolerance]  
[*What Was Important to Jesus' Followers in the Bible* slide; Spurgeon quote]

## I) Previous Points (Acts 3:1-16)

A) The Event (1-11)

B) The Message, Part 1 (12-16)

- Power
- Witness [*What Should Be Important to Us Today* slide]

## II) The Message, Part 2 (Acts 3:17-26)

A) The local audience (17-26; see also 3:12)

B) The consistency and predictability of the message (17-26) [*Basic Gospel Elements/Four Crucial Questions* slide; "Roman Road" = 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; 10:12-13; Either all at once or coming to truths over time]

C) The invitation (19a) [Read excerpts on repentance from What Is the Gospel?]

D) Implications/Promised Results (19b-26)

## III) The Response to the Message (Acts 4:1-4)

A) By those who did not believe (1-3) – types of persecution/Satan's focus on results (or lack thereof); emphasis on response to persecution (submission, HS, opportunity)

B) By those who did believe (4)

## IV) The Message, Part 3 (Acts 4:5-12)

A) The offense (5-7)

B) The response (8-12; cf Luke 12:11-12; 21:12-15)

- Clarification of offense
- The heart of the matter (highlight elements of gospel)

## V) Applications (Spend time in prayer)

### Life Response

1. In light of the truth found in Acts 3:1-4:12, ask God to clarify and magnify the gospel message. Then, do the following:
  - Before God, come to terms with whether you have found "salvation in no one else" but Jesus Christ.
    - If not, will you?
    - If so, is there really anything more important – by a long shot – than being His witness?
2. Ask God to reveal those core thing(s) that may be holding you back from being His witness: inaccurate/incomplete understanding of the implications of the gospel, fear, incorrect priorities, misconceptions, etc. By faith, surrender those thing(s) to God and ask Him to give you the courage to be His witness by His power.

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Acts 3:17-4:12

“It is noteworthy that Peter, in addressing this crowd, came at once to the very essence and bowels of his message. He did not beat the bush; he did not shoot his arrow far afield, but he hit the very centre of the target. He preached not merely the gospel of good news, but Christ, the person of Christ; Christ crucified—crucified by them, Christ risen, Christ glorified of his Father. Depend upon it, this is the very strength of the Christian ministry, when it is saturated with the name and person and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. Take Christ away, and you unchristianise the gospel, you do but pour out husks such as swine do eat, while the precious kernel is removed, seeing you have taken away the person of the Lord Jesus Christ....Accursed let him be that takes away from the gospel of Jesus Christ that he may win popular applause, or who bates his breath and smoothes his tongue that he may please the unholy throng. Such a man may have for a moment the approbation of fools, but, as the Lord his God liveth, he shall be set as a target for the arrows of vengeance in the day when the Lord cometh to judge the nations. Peter, then, boldly and earnestly preached the gospel—preached the Christ of the gospel—preached it personally and directly at the crowd who were gathered around him.”

*Charles Haddon Spurgeon, from a sermon entitled “Apostolic Exhortation,” April 5, 1868*

We must learn the language of our audience. And let me say at the outset that it is no use at all laying down *a priori* what the ‘plain man’ does or does not understand. You have to find out by experience...you must translate every bit of your Theology into the vernacular. This is very troublesome...but it is essential. It is also of the greatest service to your own thought. I have come to the conclusion that if you cannot translate your thoughts into uneducated language, then your thoughts were confused. Power to translate is the test of having really understood your own meaning.

*C.S. Lewis, from an essay entitled “Christian Apologetics” in God in the Dock: Essays on Theology and Ethics*

When they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not worry about how or what you are to speak in your defense, or what you are to say; for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.

*Luke 12:11-12*

But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you to the synagogues and prisons, bring you before kings and governors for My name’s sake. It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony. So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves; for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute.

*Luke 21:12-15*