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ONLY JESUS
NO OTHER NAME

– 175 YEARS –

PARTICIPANT GUIDE

SALVATION IN NO ONE ELSE

A BIBLE STUDY ON ACTS 3–4

By Rev. Timothy Pauls

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A BIBLE STUDY ON ACTS 3–4
at the 175th anniversary of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

— **APRIL 2022** —

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***“And there is salvation in no one else,
for there is no other name under heaven given
among men by which we must be saved”***

(ACTS 4:12)

There is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved than the name of Jesus. He is the way, the truth and the life (JOHN 14:6), the only Son of God who came into the world to be the Savior (1 JOHN 4:9).

Jesus opens the gates of heaven. He does what no one else can do.

This is the Gospel. This is good news, right?

Right?

This doesn't sit well with everybody. As soon as you say that there's a right answer to something, you're also saying that there's a wrong answer; and if there's only one right answer, it means that there could be an infinite number of wrong answers. This is one of the most pointed attacks on the Lord and His church today. In a culture that denies the idea of truth but affirms that individual choice and tolerance must be respected above all, you're going to feel some heat for saying that there's only one way to heaven.

When people are under attack, they tend to get quiet and defensive. This suits the devil just fine, because it's the Word of God that brings repentance and forgiveness.

I advise against this quiet defensiveness; but I also counsel against browbeating yourself into witnessing, as if evangelism is some horrible chore that the Lord has placed upon His people as an act of revenge for their sin. A guilt-trip is horrible motivation for talking about Jesus.

Is the Gospel truly good news? Of course, it is! The Good News is great news! And if we listen to what the Bible says instead of the complaints of the world and our own sinful inhibitions, we're going to want to talk about Jesus, and Jesus alone, because there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. So, let's take a look at Acts 4:12 in context and discover some good news!

READ ACTS 3:1–9.

1. *What does Peter say to the man who is lame? Since Peter is a sinful human being, why does this work a miracle (cf. Acts 1:8; 2:43)?*
2. *What does it mean to speak in the name of Jesus, and how is this done? (See the explanation to the First Petition of the Lord's Prayer in the Small Catechism.)*
3. *Why does Peter say, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth"? Why doesn't he say, "In the name of Peter"?*
4. *Compare this miracle to the absolution found in one of the Divine Services of Lutheran Service Book, for instance: "Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit." How is this absolution similar to Peter's words?*
5. *Imagine someone visits your church and afterward says to you, "That pastor said, 'I forgive you all your sins.' Who does he think he is — God?!" How would you respond?*

**PETER AND JOHN ARE THEN ARRESTED.
READ ACTS 4:5–12, WHERE THEY STAND TRIAL.**

11. Are there any familiar names among those who sit in judgment?

12. What question do the judges put to Peter and John (Acts 4:7)? What do they acknowledge by the question?

13. Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, answers their question (Acts 4:8–12). Take his answer phrase by phrase in verses 8–11, and discuss all that he says.

“Rulers of the people and elders” (4:8)

“... if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed”

“... let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead — by him this man is standing before you well”

“This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone”

14. Now we arrive at Peter's declaration in Acts 4:12: "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Why does Peter insist on saying that there is no other name by which we must be saved?

15. Why is it good news that Jesus is the only way to heaven? Why don't we need more ways (Acts 3:25)?

16. Now that we've explored this text, spend some time in discussion about what it means for your congregation.

- What does it mean to speak in the name of Jesus?

- Why should you keep Jesus as the focus?

- Given Peter's sermon, what about Jesus should be the focus?

- Do you treat the message of salvation in Christ alone as good news or bad news? If the latter, how might you make changes to be more joyful about the news of deliverance from sin, death and hell?



To borrow from the prompt in Question 15, I'm betting that the firefighter never says, "I feel really bad that there's only one way out of this burning building." He's too busy focusing on what saves! We should not feel embarrassed or apologetic about salvation in Christ alone, because it's the news that no less than the only Son of God shed His blood so that there is a way to heaven for all who believe! He is the only Savior because no one else could save us, and He did it by the shedding of His own blood.

As we celebrate the 175th anniversary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, we give thanks to God that He has preserved the light of Christ among us. God grant that we would always be eager and joyful to proclaim salvation in Christ alone, because there is no better news to tell!