

Sermon

IN CHRIST ALONE

Acts 4:12

Bill Howard

“Living For the One Who Branded Us...Jesus“

Acts 4:12—“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

John Calvin—(see footnote)

When we see salvation whole, it's every single part is found in Christ. And so we must beware lest we derive the smallest drop from somewhere else.

For if we seek salvation, the very name of Jesus teaches us that He possesses it.

If other Spirit-given gifts are sought, in His anointing they are found; strength—in His reign, purity—in His conception; and tenderness—in His nativity; in which in all respects like us He was, that He might learn to feel our pain;

Redemption when we seek it, is in His passion found; acquittal—in His condemnation lies; and freedom from the curse—in His own cross is given.

If satisfaction for our sins we seek—we'll find it in His sacrifice; and cleansing in His blood. If reconciliation now we need, for this He entered Hades. To overcome our sins we need to know that in His tomb they're laid. The newness of our life—His resurrection brings and immortality as well comes with that gift.

And if we also long to find inheritance in heaven's reign, His entry there secures now with our protection, safety too, and blessings that abound—all flowing from His royal throne.

The sum of all this is: For those who seek this treasure-trove of blessings of all kinds, in no one else can they be found than Him, for all are given in Christ alone.¹

What do we possess in Christ alone?

I. Savior

Forgiveness of Sin—**Acts 10:43**—Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.

Justification—**Romans 5:8-9**—⁸But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.-

Salvation—**John 6:40**—“For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”

II. High Priest

Identification—*Hebrews 4:15*—For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

¹ *In Christ Alone: Living the Gospel-Centered Life* by Sinclair B. Ferguson, Reformation Trust This is Ferguson’s paraphrase of a paragraph in Calvin’s *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, II. 16.19

Mediator—*1 Timothy 2:5*—For there is one God and also one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

Intercessor—*Romans 8:34*—Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

III. King

Protection—*John 10:28-29*—²⁸And I give my eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.

Security—*Romans 8:35, 38-39*—³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?... ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

IV. Inheritance

Adoption—*Romans 8:15-17*—¹⁵For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba, Father!” ¹⁶The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

Immortality—*1 Corinthians 15:50-53*—⁵⁰Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹Behold, I tell you a mystery: we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed. ⁵²In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet, for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

All Scripture is taken from the New American Standard Bible (NASB).

