

Volume 14 Issue 50

December 15, 2019

SALVATION IN NO ONE ELSE

"As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to them. being greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they laid hands on them and put them in jail until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand. On the next day, their rulers and elders and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem; and Annas the high priest was there, and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of high-priestly descent. When they had placed them in the center, they began to inquire, 'By what power, or in what name, have you done this?'

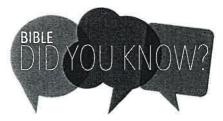
Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers and elders of the people, if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified. whom God raised from the dead - by this name this man stands here before you in good health. He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the chief corner stone. 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," Acts 4:1-12. Do you ever feel like you are in a "prison" of sorts in areas of your life? Times where you feel unfulfilled, imprisoned by the choices you've made in life

and feeling the temptation to "bust out", find freedom in making changes and choosing paths where there are no more restrictions you feel weighing you down from the places of obligation you find yourself in as a Christian? I find great comfort and encouragement from the answer Peter and John give after being imprisoned for preaching Christ and asked, "What do you think you're doing?" The pressure was put on them to choose a path where they would no longer find themselves trapped in isolation as a consequence of the choices they were making to be loyal to Jesus. They could have revoked their decision to follow Christ and choose a much easier path. Instead, they answered there was salvation in no one else except the name of Jesus. In other words, even if they were to choose a life no longer being hounded by oppressors, they would inevitably find themselves "trapped" in some aspect of an unfulfilled life, and the only true salvation was going to be in their service to Christ. Husbands And Wives. Are there times when it seems your commitment to one another has essentially "imprisoned" you into a state of un-fulfillment? When your marriage becomes difficult and

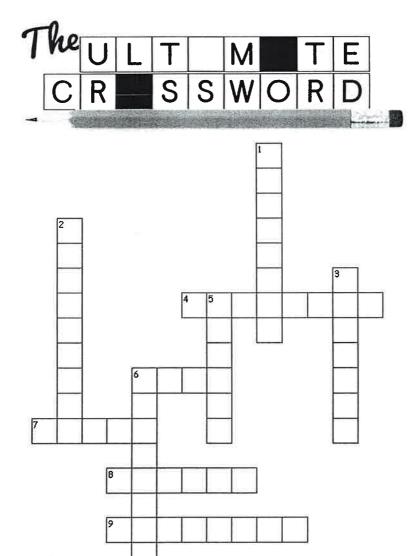
more work than you signed up for, are you hearing the pressuring voices asking "What are you doing?" when you stick to your Christian principles? There is salvation in no other name under heaven than the name of Jesus Christ. It is actually by choosing to serve, choosing to love, choosing to forgive that we find ourselves uniting our very souls to the very love God poured out upon us. The act of Jesus serving, loving, forgiving us when we did not do one thing to deserve it was exhibiting the true joy He lives for. "But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves," John 17:13. Paul reminds us that when we unite our souls with the joy filled attitude of Christ in sacrificial service and love, we tap into a fulfilling joy that nothing else in this world is able to bring us to (Philip. 2:14-18). Mothers and Fathers. Caring for children can be exhausting. Dealing with tears, fights, tantrums and messes can be exhausting. It can wear us out. We can easily feel as if our lives are literally imprisoned by the amount of time and energy they demand of us. Feeling imprisoned we can easily find ourselves hearing the voices asking "What are you

doing?" inviting us to choose the easier path of drowning out the noise and chaos in our own private escapes indulging our own interests and needs at the expense of the constant attention our children demand of us. Remember, there is salvation in no other name under Heaven than Jesus Christ. Rather than seeking our own escape into solitude, break open your bibles and hymn books and engage in exciting discussions about Jesus. Rather than burying our heads in our phones or televisions or books or music, dive into the hearts of our curious children by feeding them more of the love and understanding of God and His Kingdom. Rejoice in the voices that love to sing praises to His name and refuel in drinking from the fountain from which we will never thirst anymore. Teens and Young Adults. Life can be exhausting going through the gauntlet of school, work, chores, social life and parents. Being a Christian through it all can be a challenge, showing grace when you feel frustration mounting, choosing kindness when you feel unfairly treated and wanting to scream out your injustices. Remember, there is salvation in no one else but Jesus Christ. When Jesus went through His

unfair trials of injustice and unfairness. He chose to show submissiveness and endurance and grace and love. We can feel the temptation to break free from the constant discipline training us to exhibit His ways in the unfairness of life, but it results in true peace and freedom. "All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness," Hebrews 12:11. Whatever your "prison" is, remember the words of Peter and John and choose salvation in Christ. It exists nowhere else. - Daniel Ruegg



"Therefore, thus says the LORD God to them, 'Behold, I, even I, will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep." Ezek. 34:20



ACROSS	

ACROSS
4. You can't enter Kingdom unless you're converted and like (Mt. 18:3)
6. Jesus said there is only one who is (Mt. 19:17)
7. We will be condemned unless we forgive others from our (Mt. 18:35)
8. Our Father does not want even one little one to (Mt. 18:14)
9. What God has joined together, let no man (Mt. 19:6)
DOWN
1. With God all things are (Mt. 19:26)
2. A should be hung on the neck of one who causes stumbling. Mt. 18:6
3. Jesus said I should forgive up to times seven. (Mt. 18:22)
5. Jesus doesn't want anyone to children from coming to Him. Mt. 19:14
6. Jesus is present when 2 or 3 have in His name. (Mt. 18:20)