

Jesus saves hopeless and hostile sinners who repent
Acts 3:1–26
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Names of Christ: “Servant Jesus” (v. 13a, 26), “Holy and Righteous One” (v. 14a),
 “Author of life” (v. 15a), “the Christ” (v. 20)
 “a prophet like me” (v. 22).

> Jesus is the Author of life (v. 15a)

- (1) The author or founder (Hb. 2:10; 12:2)

Hebrews 2:10 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.

Hebrews 12:2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

- (2) The one who goes first, a leader (Acts. 5:31).

Acts 5:31 God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

- (3) The agent of creation (Jn. 1:3-4).

Theology of life

- All life comes from God (Gen. 1).
- Life flows towards death because of sin (Gen. 3:22-24).
 Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—
- Jesus is the source of life (Jn. 1:3-4; 5:26; 1 Cor. 8:6).
 John 1:3-4 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men.
- Jesus is the resurrection and life (Jn. 11:23-26; 14:6).
 John 11:23–26 Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” 24 Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” 25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

John 6:40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

- Whoever has the Son has life (1 Jn. 5:11, 20).
1 John 5:11 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.
- Do you have eternal life?

> Were you there when they crucified our Lord?

“Yes, we were there.” Not as spectators only, but as participants, guilty participants, plotting, scheming, betraying, bargaining and handing him over to be crucified. We may try to wash our hands of responsibility like Pilate. But our attempt will be as futile as his. For there is blood on our hands. Before we can begin to see the cross as something done for us (leading us to faith and worship), we have to see it as something done by us (leading us to repentance). Indeed, “only the man who is prepared to own his share in the guilt of the cross,” wrote Canon Peter Green, “may claim his share in its grace.” John R. W. Stott - *The Cross of Christ*, 61–63

1. All people are hopeless without the Author of life (3:1-10)

- Redemption

> Hopeless condition (vv. 1-2)

> Divine intervention (vv. 4-7)

> Worshipful devotion (vv. 8-10)

Isaiah 35:4–7 Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.”⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

- Have you every realized that you are in a hopeless condition and you need to be rescued by Jesus?

2. All people are hostile toward the Author of life (3:11-16).

- The lame man was healed by Jesus not the apostles (vv. 11-12, 16).
 - > Gospel ministry begins with self-denial (v. 12).
 - > Gospel ministry centers on Jesus (v. 16a; 4:2).
 - > Gospel ministry proclaims faith in his name (v. 16; 4:7-12).
- The God of their fathers glorified his servant Jesus by raising him from the dead (v. 13a, 15b, 21a, 26a).
- The Men of Israel were guilty before God (vv. 13b-15).
 - > They delivered Jesus over to Pilate (v. 13b).
 - > They denied Jesus the Holy and Righteous one in the presence of Pilate (v. 13c-4).
 - > They killed the Author of life (v. 15a).

Fallen Jews, Gentiles, and spiritual powers unwittingly collaborate in executing the only innocent death that could possibly grant the guilty life.
– Jon Bloom

- Have you ever realized that you are a guilty hostile sinner toward God?

Romans 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

Romans 8:7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

Colossians 1:21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,

3. All people can be saved by the Author of life (3:17-26).

- The plan of God was fulfilled (vv. 18, 25-26).
 - > He foretold that his Christ would suffer (v. 18).
 - > He foretold that through Christ that all the families of the earth would be blessed (vv. 24-25).
- Galatians 3:29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

- Peter appeals to them to repent and turn back to God (v. 19).
He proclaims that faith in Christ, coupled with repentance, is required for salvation.

> What is repentance?

“Repent” (*metanoeo*) “to change ones mind or purpose.”

2 Corinthians 7:10 For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

Acts 26:19–20 “Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, 20 but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.

> What happens when we truly repent?

(1) Forgiveness (v. 19)

Psalm 51:1, 9-10 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Colossians 2:13–14 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

(2) Refreshment (v. 20)

Acts 11:17–18 If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way?” 18 When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

(3) Restoration (v. 21)

(4) Deliverance (v. 22; Deut. 18:15-19)

- Have you totally placed your faith in Jesus and have you truly repented of your sin?
By God’s grace, repentance brings forgiveness through Christ, and that forgiveness is available to all who call on His name.