

I. Intro

A. Text: **Acts 4:5-12**

⁵ And it came to pass, on the next day, that their rulers, elders, and scribes, ⁶ as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. ⁷ And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, “By what power or by what name have you done this?” ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: ⁹ If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, ¹⁰ let it be known to you all, 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 stands here before you whole. ¹¹ This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’ ¹² Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:5-12)

B. 5 Solas

1. Sola Scriptura:

¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, (1 Tim. 3:16)

2. Sola Gratia

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God (Eph. 2:8)

3. Sola Fide

³⁰ And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹ So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.” (Acts 16:30-31)

- a. Believe (pisteuo #4100): to be won over, to be fully persuaded in, to trust completely in, to rest in, to be completely dependent upon.
- 4. Solus Christus
 - a. So often we try to add peripheral and unnecessary things to a one-ingredient recipe.

C. Context

- 1. Lame man healed (**Acts 3:6-8**)
- 2. Peter and John arrested (**Acts 4:2-3**)
 - a. By what power/name have you done this (**4:7**)
- 3. Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, spoke (**4:8-10**)

II. Body

A. This is The Stone

*¹¹ This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’ (**Acts 4:11**)*

- 1. First written as an O.T. prophesy in **Ps. 118:22-23**
 - a. Quoted 5 Times in the N.T.
 - i. **Matt. 21:42**
 - ii. **Mk. 12:10**
 - iii. **Lk. 20:17**
 - iv. **Acts 4:11** (Our Text)
 - v. **1 Pet. 2:7**
- 2. Religious Leaders of the day were well aware of the story behind “*this stone*”
 - a. Legend has it that when Solomon was having the temple built (almost 1,000 years B.C.). It was a meticulous, busy job.
 - b. The stones were cut and shaped at the quarry.
 - i. Not a chisel or a hammer was heard on the temple site.
 - c. The stones were formed on the quarry, then constantly transported to the temple site for the building.

- d. In the first shipment of stones to the building site, there was this one stone that just didn't match up with the others.
 - i. It was big, and clunky, and abnormal in its shape.
 - ii. It didn't fit the expectation of what a temple stone should look like.
 - iii. This stone became an annoyance to them, so they sent that stone back to the quarry.
- e. But when it came time for the builders to lay the all-important corner of the foundation, they couldn't find a stone of sufficient size, strength.
- f. This stone would take a special shape and require unbelievable strength to bear the great weight of the structure.
 - i. Ability to resist the scorching sun, extreme cold and desert winds.
- g. They tried to place other stones in the corner, but the other stones couldn't stand the test.
 - i. Under the pressure of immense weight, all the stones crumbled to pieces.
- h. Finally, the temple workers called back to the quarry and asked, "*Is there a stone that we overlooked*"?
 - i. The only stone remaining was this oddly shaped, ugly looking one that they despised and rejected from the beginning.
 - i. Turns out that only this stone had the strength to support the load.
 - i. Only this stone could withstand the pressure.
 - ii. Only this stone had the perfect fit for the corner.

3. This stone (Jesus) is the stone which the builders rejected. This stone (Jesus) has become the chief cornerstone.

- a. We've tried to build by focusing on other things.
 - i. Adding stones that had no eternal significance.

B. This is the Name (Jesus):

¹² Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

1. How can sinful, rebellious man come into right (perfect) standing before a Holy God?
 - a. 500 years ago, the church would have agreed had you answered, "*Salvation is in Jesus Christ*". They just would have added a few extras.
 - i. Good works
 - b. In like manner, we tend shout "*Christ*", then we operate as if add an "And" is needed in the equation
 - c. Somehow, we try to add other stones in the place where only the chief cornerstone can fit.
 - i. Insisting on the other stones rejects the true corner stone.
 2. This is the only stone/ name: Salvation in no other
 - a. Jesus is the Creator and Sustainer of All things.
 - i. Rev. 4:11: "*You [alone] are worthy, Oh Lord, to receive glory and honor and praise; For you created all things, and by your will they exist...*"
 - b. Jesus [alone] is worthy
 - i. Jesus alone is strong enough
 - ii. Jesus alone is wise enough
 3. It's possible to do the right thing(s), be in the right place, with the right intentions... But miss what God has for you.

³⁹ You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. ⁴⁰ But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life. (Jn. 5:39-40)

 - a. You've been in your word.
 - b. But you missed me. You were not willing to rest in Me.
 - c. You wanted to rest in your ability to reach me.
 - i. We have nothing in and of ourselves to rest on.

“For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure” (Phil. 2:13)

4. Myth: *“You do your best and God will do the rest”*
 - a. Jesus paid it all!
5. Jesus is the ONLY and EXCLUSIVE way.

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (Jn. 14:6)

C. This is a Must (Salvation)

“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

1. You and I have a NEED that cannot be overstated.
 - a. You and I have a terminal illness that cannot be cured by over the counter prescriptions.
 - b. You and I have committed the crime of treason against the King of Kings
 - c. Because we've committed treason, that makes us enemies of the King.
 - i. This King happens to be God Himself.
 - ii. That ought to produce some terror in us (because He's terribly righteous).
 - iii. That ought to produce some dread in us (because He is infinitely jealous).
2. But as we compare the bad news (our rebellion) to the good news (salvation in no other but Jesus), we can confidently, joyfully peer into the wonders of His grace for us.
3. In our preaching and teaching, we've done ourselves (and the world) a disservice:
 - a. We've sugarcoated the bad news (certain death) so much that the good news (life in Christ alone) doesn't sound all that good.

“...Sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful” (Rom. 7:13)

- b. The truth is that the bad news is worse than our limited vocabularies could possibly explain; and the good news is astronomically better than our limited vocabularies could possibly explain.
 - i. The good news is better than humanistic moralism.
 - ii. The good news is better than organizational membership and positions.
 - iii. The good news is better than self-help and artificial additives.
- c. The good news is that Christ (ALONE) is our righteousness.
 - i. Christ alone is our Holiness.
 - ii. Christ Himself is our Peace.
 - iii. Christ Himself is our Blessed Hope.

III. Conclusion

A. The great exchange (**2 Cor. 5:21**)

*²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (**2 Cor. 5:21**)*

- 1. Christ, the only perfect and righteous One, took on all of our sin.
 - a. He took all of our infirmities, issues, habits upon Him (as He was nailed to the cross).
 - b. He finished the work!
 - c. He paid the price
- B. On this Black Friday/ Cyber Monday weekend, it's the deal of a lifetime.
 - 1. Christ, the only perfect and righteous One, gives us His perfectness and His righteousness.
 - a. He graces us with what we didn't earn nor deserve.
 - 2. Christ did all the work... He paid all of the bill... and He finished it.
 - a. He took on our shame, and we take on His name.
 - 3. He paid the price.
 - a. He gave His life for us, that He would pour His life into us.
- C. There's no other stone. There's no other name. He is a must!