

Look Unto Jesus—and You Will Be Saved
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“A good many years ago (26 years to be exact circa 1854) when I was fifteen, or sixteen years of age, I wanted a Savior and I heard the gospel preached by a poor man, *who said in the name of Jesus, ‘Look unto Me and be you saved, all the ends of the earth.’*” (CHS as cited, Sermon #1546, 1880)

“Look Unto Jesus” . . . or “Turn to Jesus” are, from my perspective, interchangeable. What they signify is the fact that we need, as Spurgeon “wanted,” a Savior. Above and beyond an upright man, a moral example and a teacher. These are all ancillary to his main work: call him Jesus for **He will save his people from their sins.** (Matt. 1:21). The work of salvation was accomplished by His death on the cross, where He lay down His life for lost sinners, paying with His own blood for the penalty of their sin, securing their forgiveness. And that is why Paul **determined to know nothing in your midst except Christ, and Him crucified.** (1 Cor. 2:2) That’s the gospel pure, plain and simple. And there is power in that gospel—life transforming power—for by faith in that gospel the life that is in Christ is imparted to us, the disposition, or spiritual nature that was in Christ is implanted and the forgiveness of sin is accomplished.

All that gospel truth lies behind Paul’s words: **It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed** (billboarded!) **as crucified.** (Gal. 3:1) Jesus was publicly portrayed as our Redeemed—the only Savior who Charles Spurgeon wanted. This revelation, this relation fact, is the paramount fact of all biblical revelation—Jesus pointed out that the Scriptures speak of Him (John 5):

37 And the Father who sent Me, He has testified about Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. 38 Also you do not have His word remaining in you, because you do not believe Him whom He sent. 39 ^[a]You examine the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is those very Scriptures that testify about Me; yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

This looking unto Jesus is depicted in Scripture in the incident of the bronze serpents raised to save those bitten by poisonous vipers. This is also plain and simple: the people complained against God and God sent fiery serpents among the people. Many were bitten and died. In distress the people approach Moses, we are more fortunate in that we can go directly to our Savior(!), and asked him *to intercede for them*. As this was repentance, Moses prayed for them. Now it does not say that God removed the serpents! No, rather, in the midst of that condition, that affliction, God removed death; he took the lethality away! (Interesting, for all who know **the wages of sin are death (Romans 6:23)** and the Old Testament ordinance: **obey and prosper, disobey and perish.**(Deut. 28:15-68)) **And it shall come about, that everyone who is bitten, and looks at it, will live.** If you look to Jesus, turn to Jesus, you will live! Just do it.

5 So the people spoke against God and Moses: “Why have you brought us up from Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no ^[a]food and no water, and ^[b]we are disgusted with ^[c]this miserable food.” **6** Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. **7** So the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, because we have spoken against the Lord and against you; intercede with the Lord, that He will remove the serpents from us.” And Moses interceded for the people. **8** Then the Lord said to Moses, “^[d]Make a fiery serpent, and put it on a flag *pole*; and it shall come about, that everyone who is bitten, and looks at it, will live.” **9** So Moses made a bronze serpent and put it on the flag *pole*; and it came about, that if a serpent bit someone, and he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

When Jesus came, he didn’t remove death (at least not yet!) but he defeated death and, by rising from the dead, has scored for us the promise of resurrection and eternal life **if only we will look to Him.**

Look to Jesus. That is the gold standard of absolute truth. There is no truth higher, or truer than Christ and Him crucified. And by keeping our faith fixed on that revelation truth we are able to spot counterfeit truths—either half-truths, or lies! Jesus said to Thomas, “**I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.**” (John 14:6) This is true but above the words that Jesus spoke, we are to hold up the work of the cross—He came to redeem us, not to inspire, or instruct us!

If Jesus has not redeemed you, you may as well forbid the tide to come in as to try and obey Him. It will be impossible to live right, if his righteousness is not in you. You are justified by him. When He is your life, your hope, your salvation, when you *keep yourself fixed on Him* and you will escape error, deflect temptation, and even avoid sinning. The victory is in Jesus, and through Jesus and not a matter of your own making. He saves, we serve. That’s how it is. Obedience, indeed, is the way to wisdom! And while no one comes to the Son unless the Father draws him, we ought to make it our purpose to follow through when the call comes! Turn to Jesus! Repent and believe. We cannot save ourselves, Jesus alone saves.

“The day we live in is a day of wild imaginations everywhere,” or so Oswald Chambers wrote in 1912, “unchecked imaginations in music, literature, and, worst of all, in interpretations of Scripture.” The situation has not improved. If anything our obsession with politics is out of control. Politics used to be how things got done

¹ **Footnotes**

- a. Numbers 21:5 Lit *bread*
- b. Numbers 21:5 Lit *our soul is disgusted*
- c. Numbers 21:5 I.e., the manna
- d. Numbers 21:8 Lit *Make for yourself*

governmentally—now it is deployed as a way to get all things done. Sports, medicine, law and justice, education and the military—all politicized *with the result, it appears*, that less and less is done and divisiveness, hostility, antagonism and violence are up alarmingly . . . on red alert. Those who harness anarchy to achieve their social and political goals will end up in absolute chaos. That is the way of the world, we have this comfort from our Redeemer who says: **I have said these things that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have trouble** (tribulation). **But take heart, I have overcome the world.** (John 16:33)

4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them (the world); **because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.** **5 They are from the world, therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them.** **6 We are from God. The one who knows God listens to us; the one who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.** (1 John 4:4-6)

If we know the spirit of truth, we have nothing to fear from lying spirits, or from falsehood or error regardless of its source. Look to Jesus. Secure salvation. That is clear, simple, pure and powerful. **Amen.**