



**UPPER
HUNTER**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DEVOTIONAL AID FOR 13 JULY 2020 – 19 JULY 2020

Dear church family,

This week, the Heidelberg Catechism takes us to think about the name of our Saviour, Jesus. In fact, the name Jesus itself means Saviour! The catechism's answer is that Jesus was given this name because He was to save us from our sins. This is exactly what the bible says in Matthew 1:21, "[Mary] will give birth to a son, and you (Joseph) are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." This may all sound obvious to us, Christians. However, Kevin DeYoung reminds us that this obvious point is something we can easily forget to our detriment.

"And don't miss what should be obvious, that Jesus saves us from our *sins* (Matt. 1:21). The point of the gospel is not that Jesus saves us from low self-esteem, or from singleness, or from our crummy job. As evangelicals, we do better defending the truth that Jesus is our Savior than we do remembering what He actually saves us from. Sin is our deepest, most fundamental, most pervasive problem. Other teachers and heroes may be able to save us from life's stresses and disappointments, but with this problem of sin, there is only One who can save, and His name is Jesus."¹

We believe Jesus is the one who saves us from our sins. He's the only one who can save us from our sins. Therefore, together with the apostles, we confess, "salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

Please do not hesitate to contact me (0425 270 854 / tim.wonil.lee@gmail.com) if you'd like to pray with me or for any other needs.

Yours in Christ,

Timothy Lee

<https://www.upperhunterpc.com>

¹ Kevin DeYoung, *The Good News We Almost Forgot* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2010), 64, *italics original*.

THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM²

Lord's Day 11

Q29) **Why is the Son of God called “Jesus” meaning “saviour”?**

A) Because he saves us from our sins;
and because salvation is not to be sought or found in anyone else.

Q30) **Do those who look for their salvation and security in saints, in themselves, or elsewhere really believe in the only saviour Jesus?**

A) No. Although they boast of being His,
by their actions they deny the only Saviour, Jesus.
Either Jesus is not a perfect Saviour,
or those who in true faith accept this Saviour have in him all they need for their salvation.

ACTS 4:11–12

Jesus is “ ‘the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.’ Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

Why do we often feel afraid of telling others about Jesus? There would be many different reasons for different people, but one significant reason is in its inherent “exclusivity.” When we share Jesus with others, it’s not like we’re just talking about our preferred way of exercising. “I like running, you like bike-riding. We can still be friends, no worries!” But if I told my friend, “no, only running will save you from your unhealthy weight!”, well, he would take it as a joke or, if taken seriously, he would think I’m a weirdo at best and downright arrogant most likely. And yet, it is not us insisting Jesus is the only way to be saved from sins. It is the Bible that tells us that. In actuality matter of fact, it is precisely because Jesus is the only Saviour, we are compelled to tell others about Him. They can get fit by running, bike-riding, swimming, or whatever exercises they like. But when it comes to salvation from sins, “there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved!”

1 TIMOTHY 2:5

For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus.

We must “not look for ... salvation and security in saints.” This is generally not a problem in Protestant churches. Praying to saints, hoping for the extra merit of saints, and keeping feasts days for the saints is a Roman Catholic phenomenon. These seem like obvious cultural accretions to most Protestant—after all there is only one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus (1 Tim. 2:5). But this doesn’t mean Protestants are off the hook. Are we not just as likely to feel “saved” because our parents are godly or our grandparents went to church every Sunday, or because we went to church when we were kids twenty years ago? But never forget: God has no grandchildren. We must each stand before Him with faith that is our own. Trusting in upbringing or parental involvement is looking for salvation and security in saints, not in Christ.³

² The text of the Catechism is usually from <https://threeforms.org/heidelberg-catechism/>, but time to time, for the sake of clarity, I have also adopted the translation used in *The Good News We Almost Forgot* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2010) by Kevin DeYoung.

³ Kevin DeYoung, *The Good News We Almost Forgot* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2010), 64