

Jesus Saves

“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of who I am chief” (1 Tim. 1:15).

My former pastor and dear friend, Rev. Henry Vegter, has made and painted religious signs for forty years. Now, in his later years, he is making beautiful white crosses. Throughout Western North Carolina and other areas, these large crosses are erected on private property with special gospel messages on them. Although the statements vary, my favorite one is still the simple two-word testimony, “Jesus Saves.”

That is the message of the Bible. For example, throughout the Old Testament pictures, promises, and prophecies were given announcing the Messiah’s coming and mission. One of the great prophetic texts fulfilled in Christ reads, “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: He is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass” (Zech. 9:9).

When we come to the New Testament, the first word concerning the Messiah clearly verified His great purpose. The angel said to Joseph, “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21). Concerning His Own mission and purpose, Jesus said, “For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). In the text before us, His saving purpose and power are also accentuated.

Jesus Saves—and there’s no doubt about it! The phrase, “This is a faithful saying,” indicates that the declaration, “Jesus Saves,” is a credible message. It need not be questioned or disputed. The other phrase, “and worthy of all acceptance,” further emphasizes that this message is to be highly esteemed and trustfully received. This word can be assuredly proclaimed. This good news can be unhesitatingly believed! Jesus saves sinners!

Jesus Saves—and He’s the only One Who saves! The title “Christ Jesus,” meaning “Anointed Savior,” strongly proclaims that Jesus is the approved One, the only Savior. The fact that He “came into the world” underlines that He is the only One sent by the Father. There is no alternative, no other provision for sinners. The phrase “to save sinners” magnifies that this is the only purpose. The Lord Jesus is the only One Who saves sinners!

Jesus Saves—and saves the worst of sinners! As Paul mused on the message of the gospel, he humbly appraised himself as “the chief of sinners,” or “the greatest of transgressors.” In the light of God’s holiness, his sin had become “exceeding sinful” (Rom. 7:17). In himself, there was no hope, but in the saving work of Jesus he found hope. No matter who we are or what we have done, may we realize that there is hope in Christ. Hear the message again—Jesus Saves!