

JESUS CHRIST, THE ETERNAL SAVIOUR

HEBREWS 13:8 • TV199A

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Hebrews 13:8

“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.”

We are turning in our Bible today to the **Book of Hebrews**. I will be speaking **from Chapter 13: verse 8, Hebrews 13: verse 8.**

Here is the subject: **“JESUS CHRIST, THE ETERNAL SAVIOUR.”**

I feel that this is one of the most important messages that I shall ever bring on this television program. I want you to just pull up a chair and take your Bible and follow along with me as I speak on this subject: **“JESUS CHRIST, THE ETERNAL SAVIOUR.”**

Here is the text in **Hebrews 13:8**; listen to it, *“Jesus Christ the same, yesterday, and today, and forever.”*

Now my friend, one of the greatest errors, (and I hate to start off that way), but this is definitely an error, it is a false teaching. One of the greatest errors of our day and of any day for that matter is the idea that Jesus Christ and redemption through His blood and His obedience is only one of the many ways that God has used to save fallen men.

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Now, that is a great error, that Jesus Christ and redemption through His perfect obedience and through His precious blood is only one of the many ways that God has used to save sinners. But, that is being taught and always has been taught. I will show you that in a moment.

But, the Scriptures plainly declare that Jesus Christ is now, always has been, and always will be, the only way that a sinner can be justified in the sight of God Almighty.

I don't care whether he lived in Old Testament days, in the days of Abraham, in the days of Enoch, in the days of Moses, in the days of David, Solomon, Isaiah or in the New Testament or during the reformation or where the sinner lives now.

For any human being since Adam, the only way to God for any sinner is through Christ. I am saying that the Scriptures, (the Word of God), plainly teaches that the only way to God for any sinner or any generation of any age of any century or of any nation, is through Christ, Jew or Gentile.

Now listen to the Bible in **John 14:6**; Christ said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh to the father but by me,"* no man!

Listen to **Acts chapter 4:12**; *"Neither is there salvation in any other for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. Neither is there salvation in any other for there is none other name under heaven given among men."*

Romans 6:23 says, *"The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* He said, *"Abraham saw my day; Abraham rejoiced to see my day. Abraham saw my day and was glad."*

We can go all the way back to Abraham and say that he saw the day of Christ and found his joy in redemption through Jesus Christ, not through the law, not through his good works, but through Christ.

Christ said, *"Moses wrote of me."* John wrote in **1 John 5:11**; *"This is the record that God hath given to us eternal life; this life is in his Son: And he that hath the Son of God hath life and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."*

Now, this is the way and who can doubt, who can misread or doubt Isaiah's testimony? In **Isaiah 53** it says, *"He was wounded for our transgressions."* Does that sound like a man trusting in the law or trusting the ceremony, trusting the holy days and the feast, or trusting the sacrifices?

"He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon him and by his stripes we are healed." That is Christ he is talking about.

"All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned everyone to his own way but the Lord hath laid on Christ the iniquity of us all." There is only one way to God.

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Now, this is the way this error is taught. I am saying that many men have taught and are teaching today and they will go on teaching that Jesus Christ and His blood is only one of the many ways in the many dispensations that God has used to save sinners.

This is the way it is usually taught, in fact, it was taught just a few days ago on a television station right here in this area. Now listen to what the preacher said:

“God created man in his own image and sought to have fellowship with man. Now that was God’s intention and that was God’s original design.” They say that He created man and hoped He could have fellowship with man. Well, man fell.

So God began then to seek a way to save him, in other words, the fall slipped up on God, it was unknown to God and He didn’t know it was going to happen. When it happened, it messed up His plans and He began to search through heaven to find a Saviour.

So, God tried this first; He sent His prophets into the world hoping that men would hear His prophets and turn back to fellowship with God, but they wouldn’t hear the prophets and they wouldn’t listen to the prophets and wouldn’t follow the prophets. So, that way failed.

So, then God out of desperation gave the law and said, “Well, man will hear my Law.” *“Thou shalt have no other Gods before me. Thou shalt not make any graven image. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. Remember the Sabbath day to honor your parents.”*

So, God gave man the law hoping to restore man to fellowship with him by keeping the law. That didn’t work. Man spit on the law, he hated the law and he rebelled against the law. So, God said, “I will send my Son.” They wouldn’t hear the prophets; they wouldn’t hear the Law so “I will send my Son.”

So, he sent His Son down here in the world and that failed because man rejected his Son and said, *“We won’t have this man reign over us.”* They nailed Him to a cross and that left God in a desperate situation.

So, God now sent the Holy Spirit. Somebody said, “He’s not the greatest but he’s the latest” on the program; men have rejected and rebelled against the Holy Spirit.

Then, God plans during the Millennium to send Christ back down here and put Him on a literal throne in Jerusalem and let Him sit over there in that little walled city and try to rule the world.

But, we know that is going to fail because they began to organize rebellion against him. After a thousand years Satan is going to lead a mighty battle in Armageddon against the Lord Jesus Christ.

Listen to me; this kind of teaching is an insult to God Almighty. It is an insult to His wisdom, an insult to His holiness, an insult to His power, an insult to His Majesty, and an insult to every attribute of God.

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This kind of theology is a denial of the Holy Scripture. Let me tell you something and you listen to me; Almighty God is eternal. He has infinite wisdom. Almighty God is just that, Almighty, all wise, and unchangeable. He is the immutable, unchangeable, infinite, God.

He does absolutely nothing in time (nothing) that He did not decree and purpose and plan from all eternity. You put that down! God does not change. He doesn't change His mind. He doesn't change His purposes and He doesn't change His ways.

I can give you dozen of Scriptures that say that, one in particular; *"I am the Lord; I change not."* In **Romans 11:29** it says, *"The gifts and calling of God are, without repentance (without change)."* In our text this morning *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."*

Now listen to this scripture; *"Known unto God are all his works from the beginning,"* from the beginning. Jesus Christ our Saviour is no afterthought. Jesus Christ our Redeemer is no emergency measure that God threw into operation when His creation began to fail. *"He is the lamb slain from the foundation of the world."*

If God attempted to save men by innocence, judges, prophets, and the law, then why was Christ, *"the lamb slain from the foundation of the world?"* Before God laid the first rock, before God planted the first tree, before God created the first man, before Adam ever fell or thought about falling, Almighty God says; *"Christ is the surety of an everlasting covenant."*

Listen to some more Scriptures: *"God declares the end from the beginning. We were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world."* We were not chosen in the prophets, not chosen in the law, but chosen in Christ.

Paul, writing to the Church of Thessalonica said this; *"we give thanks brethren, beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning:"* When is the beginning?

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and was God: God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit, and belief of the truth."

That is the only way that God has ever saved sinners. That is how God purposed to save them. That is how God chose to save them. That is how God decreed to save them, through belief of the truth.

The prophets were not saviors nor did they claim to be nor did they pretend to be. Listen to **Acts 10:43**; *"To him give all the prophets witness,"* all the prophets. Who were the prophets?

The prophets were Isaiah, and Jeremiah. Moses was a prophet; he said, *"God is going to send a prophet from among the brethren like unto me."* He was the first, mighty, great, prophet. He was recognized by all as a prophet of God. He told them about Christ; he wrote of Christ.

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“To him, (to Christ), give all the prophets witness.” Moses never claimed to be a saviour. He claimed to be a preacher of the Saviour’s Gospel, *“that through his name, whosoever believeth in him should receive remission of sin.”*

The law wasn’t given to save. The Scripture plainly says *“that the law is a schoolmaster that brings us to Christ.”* The Holy Spirit is not a Saviour. Christ didn’t say that when He comes that He will save you from your sins, he said; *“when he comes he will comfort you.”* He is the Comforter.

“He shall not speak of himself. He shall glorify me. He shall take the things of mine and show them to you.” So, God never intended to save by the prophets. The prophets were witnesses of Christ.

God never intended to redeem men through the law. You can’t redeem the lost man by obedience to the law that he cannot keep. God never intended for the Holy Spirit to be the Saviour. He is the witness of Christ.

But, there is one Gospel. Paul said, *“If any man preach any other Gospel, let him be accursed.”* There is one Gospel; there has never been but one Gospel; there never will be but one Gospel and that Gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Listen to **Romans Chapter 1: verses 1 through 3**; now listen carefully to Paul, *“Paul, (speaking of himself), a servant (or a bond-slave of Jesus Christ, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ), separated unto the Gospel of God, (God’s Gospel), which he promised afore by his prophets in the holy Scriptures concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

In other words, Paul is saying this; the Gospel of Christ is the Gospel that God revealed to Adam and Eve in **Genesis 3:15**, the Gospel of Christ, not the Gospel of a law, or the Gospel of a prophet, or the Gospel of a ceremony.

The Gospel of Christ, His substitutionary work, His death and His obedience, is the very Gospel that God first revealed to Adam and Eve after they had fallen in the Garden of Eden. God came to them and said this; *“I’ll put enmity between thee (talking about Satan) and the woman, between thy seed and the woman’s seed.”*

“You will bruise his heel and he will crush your head.” He will bruise your head. He will destroy your power. Almighty God right there is promising the virgin’s Son, the seed of woman, not the seed of man, the seed of woman.

He is promising right there the victor over Satan. He is promising right there the one who would come. Though His human nature would be mocked, persecuted, and even killed, yet by His power, and by His death, by His bruising, *“it pleased the Lord to bruise him.”* But by His bruising, Satan’s power might be conquered. That is the Gospel of Christ.

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Then, the Gospel of substitution through Christ is the Gospel that God showed to Adam and Eve. There they stood in their nakedness after they had fallen. They gathered fig-leaves to make them an apron to cover their nakedness.

They were afraid; they were ashamed. They were convicted of their guilt. They tried to cover their nakedness and God said; “Those homemade aprons won’t do. I will cover you.” God slew a lamb, an animal, and shed its blood and took the skin of that animal and covered the nakedness of Adam and Eve.

God is saying right there; this is the way that guilt is covered; this is the way that nakedness is covered. By death, by the shedding of blood, by the sacrifice of the innocent to cover the guilty, that is Christ.

This is the Gospel that God, the death of the son of God, is the Gospel that Abel believed. It is the Gospel that Abel pictured when he brought a blood sacrifice. Abel, one of the earliest worshippers of God, the second son of Adam and Eve, brought a lamb and slew that lamb and put its blood on an altar. “*God had respect to his offering*” because it showed the coming Lamb of God.

Abel believed this Gospel and Cain refused it and shows us that he refused it by offering his works instead of the blood. “*Without the shedding of blood there is no remission.*”

What I am saying to you is this; Christ and his Gospel didn’t begin in Bethlehem or at Golgotha’s Hill. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is as old as the purpose of God from all eternity. “*He is the lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*”

Then, this Gospel of Christ our sin offering, is the Gospel. Abraham was taught by God when he came to Mount Mariah and put his son on that altar and would have taken the knife and slain him as a burnt offering.

God said, “*Touch not the lad; do the lad no harm.*” Abraham turned and there was a ram caught in the thicket behind him.” God said, “Take your son off the altar and put the ram in his place and slay the ram and the ram will take Isaac’s place on the altar.” This is Christ taking our place, suffering in our stead, and suffering in our place. Do you see that?

God shows it all the way through the Scriptures. This Gospel of the atonement of Christ, of the death of Christ, is the Gospel seen in the tabernacle in the wilderness, every time the high priest would slay a lamb and come under the veil and put the blood of that lamb on the mercy seat.

You see, the Ark of the Covenant was in that Holy of Holies. In that Ark of the Covenant was Moses’ law, the law that God gave Moses, the broken law. Covering that Ark was a gold mercy seat, of beaten pure gold. Over it the cherubim’s and right in the middle was the Shechinah glory of God.

Once a year the high priest would come into that Holy of Holies, not without blood and he would put the blood on the mercy seat, covering the broken law. That is Christ! That is His death for sin.

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You don't trust the high priest and you don't trust his ceremony and you don't even trust that sacrifice because *"the blood of bulls and goats can't put away sin;"* they are but pictures of Christ.

What I am showing you and what I am trying to reveal to you from the Word of God is that there has never been but one Saviour. There has never been but one way to God and that is by the sacrifice of Christ, by the obedience of Christ and by the blood of Christ. That is the only way to God, for you, me, Abraham, Isaac, Abel, Adam, or whoever.

This Gospel of Christ crucified is the Gospel God taught Israel in the wilderness when they were bitten by the fiery serpent. Now listen to me; our Lord used this illustration himself, he said; *"as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so, must the Son of man be lifted up that whosoever believeth in him, (the lifted up Christ), should not perish but have everlasting life."*

Well, the people of Israel were bitten; they were murmuring and complaining against God's good providence. God sent a plague among them; fiery serpents bit the people and they were dying. God said, *"Moses; take a serpent of brass, made like these fiery serpents, and lift it on a pole and whosoever looketh will live."*

The fiery serpents that has bitten us is sin and Christ became flesh; Christ came down here and *"was made in the likeness of sinful flesh,"* in the likeness of flesh and took upon himself our sin and was lifted up on a cross. God said, *"Believe on him and live."*

Listen to this Scripture in **Hebrews 10:** *"The law,"* (talking about the ceremonial law, the levitical law or even the Ten Commandments or whatever law, the Feast Days, the Sabbath days or any other law); the law is only an outline.

Read it in **Hebrews 10:1;** the law is only *"a shadow"* an outline. It is a pattern; it is *"a shadow (picture) of good things to come; it can never put away sin;"* (never, never, never). *"The blood of bulls and goats can never, take away sin."*

All of the Old Testament Scriptures are written to picture, to prophesy, to promise, and to illustrate redemption for sinners through the sacrifice and substitutionary work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In **Luke 24: verses 44 through 47,** our Lord clearly explains that to his disciples; he says this to them; *"these are the words that I spake to you while I was yet with you that all things must be fulfilled which are written in the law of Moses, (that is starting with Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy and right on through the prophets, in the Psalms), all these things written in Moses, the prophets, and in the Psalms concerning me."*

"And he opened their understanding that they might understand the Scriptures." He said, *"Thus it is written and thus it behooved Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day that redemption, that repentance, and remission of sin, should be preached in his name among all nations, (Jew or Gentile)."*

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Oh how foolish men are, how foolish we are, following our human logic and our natural wisdom. We reject God's way and we go our own way; we have all "*turned to our own way.*"

We try to make a Saviour; we try to make a Saviour out of those things which are but means, means of grace, means of illustration, means of teaching, and pictures. We take the means and the pictures and try to make a Saviour out of them; that is the story of all flesh.

Let me show you an illustration. Turn to **2 Kings chapter 18**. All of you are familiar with and you who are not familiar with it, I mentioned it awhile ago, about Moses who lifted up that brazen serpent. All right, the people were bitten. Moses made the serpent like God commanded. It is a picture of Christ, a type of Christ, lifted up; people looked and lived.

What do you suppose they did with that serpent? What do you suppose they did with it? I will tell you what they did with it; they did what we would do it. If we could find that lost Ark of the Covenant, we would worship it. If we could find the cross, we would worship it; yes sir, we would.

Those people took that brazen serpent down and from that day instead of worshipping God, instead of praising God, they worshipped the brazen serpent.

Along came **Hezekiah in 2 Kings 18:4** and removed those high places and took the brazen serpent that Moses had made, for it says, "*in those days the children of Israel were worshipping that serpent and burning incense to it and he destroyed it. He brake it into pieces and he called it, a worthless piece of brass.*"

If you could find the cross on which Jesus Christ's body hung when He bought our redemption and died under the wrath of His father, and died for our sins, you could find that cross, and I'll tell you what you better do with it; it is nothing but a worthless block of wood and you better burn it or people will worship it.

That's exactly right! It is not the cross that saves it is the Christ of the cross; it is the one who hung on that cross. Jesus Christ is our Redeemer. Jesus Christ is our Saviour. Jesus Christ alone is to be worshipped. Jesus Christ alone is to be followed and trusted.

People today; I will tell you what they are doing; they are doing the same thing today; they are going over to what they call the "Holy Land." There is nothing holy about that land; it is Bible lands but there is nothing holy about it. It is no more holy than any part of the state of West Virginia.

People will go over there, to what they call, "the Holy place and the Holy Lands" and they bow before those shrines. They go to be baptized in the Jordan River. I would just as soon be baptized in the Ohio River or any other river, or a frog pond, for that matter.

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There is no magic in the Jordan River. There is no magic in those shrines over there; they can do nothing for you. God is no more there than He is here; He is everywhere. That is just exactly what is happening to this generation as well as any other; we have made a god out of means.

Almighty God gave his law to shut men up to Christ. Instead of looking to Christ we are looking to the law. God sent his Son into the world by the way of a woman's womb and what have we done; we worship the woman called "Mary."

God gave water baptism as a picture of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection; men try to be saved by baptism.

God gave the Lord's Table as a memorial of Christ and His saving work and men have made a sacrament out of the Lord's Table and they are trying to be saved by the bread and the wine.

The Lord God rose up a church for his glory to preach the Gospel and have fellowship for the saints but we have made a Saviour out of the church.

It's a horrible, horrible, demonstration of the natural wisdom set up against God's holy truth; Christ is the Saviour; He is *"the same yesterday, today, and forever."*

Now, my friends; there is one Gospel and *"that is the Gospel concerning his Son."* I am trying to be as kind and as tender, and as understanding as I possibly can be to show you the way to God. There is one Gospel and that is *"the Gospel concerning his Son."*

There is one righteousness and it's not yours, it's not mine, and it is not any other man's; it is the righteousness of Christ, *"without which, no man will see the Lord,"* in Christ judicially, in Christ positional; in Christ before God we have a perfect righteousness that cannot be questioned.

He that hath Christ shall never be ashamed. He will never be put to shame and He will never be ashamed at Christ's coming.

There is one Saviour, only one Saviour. *"There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."* He said, *"I am the door: by me, if any man enter in, he shall be saved. I am the bread of life; I am the water of life. I am the resurrection and the life"* and he is the only way to God.

Listen to this: *"There's one mediator; there's one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one mediator between God and men and that is the man Jesus Christ."*

My friends; *"there is one hope and one hope of our calling,"* and that is the hope that we have in Jesus Christ our Lord."

The song writer put it this way:

"My hope is built on nothing less

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**“My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus’ blood and his righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
I wholly lean on Jesus’ name.**

**His oath, his covenant, His blood
Support me in the whelming flood
And when all around my soul gives way
He alone is my hope and stay.**

**On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand.”**