

The Book of Romans, Lesson 3, Romans 1:3-4, "Jesus the Only Savior"

How do we know that only Jesus can save us? Could it be possible that someone else is qualified to make us right with God? There have been many so-called saviors, messiahs, teachers, and prophets and there will be many more, could they? Can they save? Why couldn't one of us die for everybody else and pay for their sins?

1. These questions will be answered by us understanding two words: Romans 1:2-3.

- ✓ What are the two words to understand if we are to understand the real Jesus? If we don't understand, we will fall for any false Jesus. "Born" and "declared" are those two words. Other places in the Bible, God describes Jesus with two verbs, in Isaiah 9:6 HE uses "Born" and "Given." One speaks of natural descendant and the other of supernatural descendent. Born is natural; declared or given is supernatural. All are born; there is no other natural way to come into existence on this planet, but only "One" is given and declared. The uniqueness of Jesus is that, yes, He's like all the rest of us in that He was born, but He is unlike every other human in that He was declared and given. Born speaks of His humanity but given and declared speak of His divinity. No other person is like Him; He is fully human and fully divine. Jesus is God, but not just God, He is also human; Jesus is human, but not just human, He is also God.

2. Examples of Jesus' two natures are all over the place in the New Testament.

- ✓ Jesus has had a long day: He dealt with His own family who thought He was crazy; He pronounced woes upon numerous cities; spoke only in parables to the crowds and teaches all day long, Mark 4:35-41. Jesus is exhausted, as any human would be, He's out like a light in the bottom of the boat. Jesus seems very human thus far, but then the storm comes and He's anything but human! In Mark 4:41 the question "who is this?" is a very good question! He is a unique person, none like Him ever before or since, He is both God and man. That is the real Jesus; sleeps and then stills storms; cries but then raises the dead, all the way human and all the way God.

3. Back to the all-important question: could anyone else have died for our sins?

- ✓ The simple answer is "NO" our solution is too complex for simple solution. There is no easy remedy for us, or God would have carried it out. Our problem is expressed in Ezekiel 18:20; Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23. This isn't true for just a few of us but all of us, countless human souls with a debt that we owe that we will pay for ourselves for all eternity. Death of the body is a one-and-done kind of deal, but our sins are against the eternal God and His eternal laws, so, our debt isn't just physical but also spiritual, the debt we owe is an eternally dying one in a place called Hell. Countless humans all owe this same debt; for someone to pay for our debt, they have to be human as well to take our place. But there are no other humans other than indebted ones. The debt for a countless number of sins and sinners has to be paid, but by who? Only man can die and only God can save.

4. The Solution.

- ✓ God becomes one of us so that He can take our place, the infinite God for an almost infinite number of sins and sinners. The unique solution for our condition is Jesus, fully God and fully man. If He isn't fully man, He cannot die, and we cannot be saved. If He isn't fully God, He cannot save, and we die in our sins. Angels couldn't do this for us because, though they are perfect, they are not human nor infinite. Humans couldn't do this for us because it could only be one life for one life, not to mention the fact that there is not even one righteous human to begin with. The value of a promise is dependent upon the position and worth of the one making the promise.

Every religion and most false Jesuses promise salvation: "follow our rules; believe our doctrine and you will go to heaven." They all promise salvation, but a promise is only as good as the one making it. Buddha, Mohammed, Jim Jones, Joseph Smith were all sinners who cannot pay their own debts much less ours. There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12. Only One makes a legitimate offer; only One qualifies for the position of Savior. Jesus makes an offer that you can refuse.
