

I would add yet one other truth that I am sure Philip told in preaching Jesus. He no doubt also preached Jesus as the Saviour of sinners **so earnest**, that is, so urgent and caring in calling sinners to come to Him to be saved and to come to Him for cleansing and renewal, time and again. If you are not yet trusting and following Him, in the Name of Jesus, as His ambassador before you, I beseech you, 'Be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ, and repent and believe the gospel today!' The Ethiopian eunuch was not indecisive about trusting and following the Saviour. Will you be, if not indifferent, still always indecisive about trusting Jesus alone and following after Him as Saviour and Lord? Today is the day of salvation, the Bible says. Will you be saved today, or will you put it off until a more convenient time, till it may well be forever too late?

The Ethiopian eunuch went on his way rejoicing. Yes for by God's grace he trusted in Jesus, the Saviour of sinners, indeed, the Saviour of sinners exclusively so, exceptionally so, everlastingly so, and earnestly so. What is your response to this preaching of Jesus? Will you too by grace respond in faith and repentance and devotion to Him, or won't you go on your way rejoicing? As the hymn writer put it:

Come to the Savior now, He gently calleth thee;  
In true repentance bow, Before Him bend the knee;  
He waiteth to bestow Salvation, peace, and love,  
True joy on earth below, A home in Heav'n above.

Come to the Saviour now! He offers all to thee,  
And in His merits thou, Hast an unailing plea.  
No vain excuses frame, For feelings do not stay;  
None who to Jesus came, Were ever sent away.

Come to the Savior, all, Whate'er your burdens be;  
Hear now His loving call, "Cast all your care on Me."  
Come, and for ev'ry grief In Jesus you will find  
A sure and safe relief, A loving Friend and kind.

Oh, yes, for remember, and never forget, His Name is JESUS! Amen.

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**BANNER OF TRUTH RADIO BROADCAST**

*Radio Ministry of the FREE REFORMED CHURCHES of North America*

*Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee that it may be displayed because of the truth. (Psalm 60:4)*



### PREACHING JESUS

Dear friends, it is my privilege and my calling to preach Jesus to you. I do so on the basis of Acts 8:35 where we read, "*Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same Scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.*" The eunuch from Ethiopia had been reading from Isaiah 53. Beginning there, Philip preached to this man the gospel, the good news, of Jesus. The word for preaching here is a word that states 'preaching Jesus' is proclaiming from God's Word the joyful, exhilarating, glad tidings of salvation through Jesus Christ the Lord.

The name "Jesus", you may know, is the God-chosen and God given personal name for God's beloved Son come to this earth, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. Of all the names, God wanted this name for the promised Messiah because it means Saviour. Jesus is what His Name declares, the Saviour of sinners. The angel of the Lord tells Joseph in Matthew 1:21, "*....and thou shalt call His Name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins.*"

Philip preached Jesus to the Ethiopian eunuch. What would this Spirit-filled man, one of the seven chosen as deacon and evangelist in Acts 6, have all said? You can be sure he would have told and shown him from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Saviour of sinners **exclusively so**. What does that mean? It means that there is no other Saviour of sinners for us. Sin and sinfulness is our great grievous problem. In the beginning God made man good, but as Genesis 3 tells us, the first humans, Adam and Eve, rebelled and fell into sin and now the whole human race is plagued with sin and hopeless sinfulness, left to ourselves. But the day man fell, God promised a Saviour. I can't help but wonder, 'Did Philip point the eunuch to Genesis 3:15, the first promise of God sending a Saviour for sinners?'

But the point now is all the Scriptures declare there is no Saviour of our own making that could even save us from our sins, but the Saviour given by God is able to save to the uttermost all that come to God through Him. It is so very sad and tragic how many look to and trust in something else or someone else, or something or someone in addition to the Saviour, Jesus Christ. The Bible declares only Jesus Christ can save us from our sins, and all that is needed for our complete salvation from sin is found in and with Him alone. In Isaiah 45:21&22 [maybe Philip had the eunuch look this up], we read God's Word saying, "*...and there is no God else beside Me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none besides Me. Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.*" So

Peter says likewise in Acts 4:12 while preaching Jesus, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

When you are a true Christian, you know and believe Jesus is the Saviour, exclusively so. Then you know it is right and true what the Reformation document, the Heidelberg Catechism, teaches also in Lord’s Day 11. The first question there is, “Why is the Son of God called Jesus, that is, Saviour? And the answer is, “Because He saves us, and delivers us from our sins; and likewise, because we ought not to seek, neither can find salvation in any other.” The next question asks then, in further application of this gospel truth, “Do such then believe in Jesus the only Saviour, who seek their salvation and welfare of saints, of themselves, or anywhere else?” The Bible-based answer given is, “They do not; for though they boast of Him in words, yet in deeds they deny Jesus the only deliverer and Saviour; for one of these two things must be true, that either Jesus is not a complete Saviour or that they, who by a true faith receive this Saviour, must find all things in Him, necessary to their salvation.” Here we learn you can’t pray to Mary, mother of Jesus, and be a true Christian believing in Jesus as only Saviour for us; you can’t honour this saint and that saint, expecting help before God from them, and praying to them, and still say you believe Jesus as the only and complete Saviour for us. Neither can you be trusting in your own works to save you, or make you somehow worthy before God to be accepted of Him, and still claim to be a true Christian. Preaching Jesus is declaring Jesus alone is the Saviour of sinners, exclusively and totally so. Our sin problem before the holy and righteous God is something so deep-rooted and makes us so corrupt and depraved of ourselves, that except the divinely sent Saviour with His supernatural saving powers save us totally, we will never be saved. Do you know and confess this truth of Jesus as Saviour of sinners, exclusively so?

Preaching Jesus we may proclaim, He came to be the exact Saviour that we hopeless, helpless, guilty, vile, corrupt, depraved sinners need to save us from our sins. Preaching Jesus is declaring from the Scriptures God in love sent us a Saviour so ready and equipped to save even the vilest of sinners who calls upon Him for His mercy and grace. Preaching Jesus is proclaiming Jesus as the Saviour not only exclusively so, but **exceptionally so**. For what did Jesus do as Saviour of sinners? In I Timothy 1:15 we read this glorious statement from Paul, “*This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief*” [he adds].

Beginning at the Scriptures where the eunuch was reading from, Isaiah 53, in preaching Jesus, surely Philip would have told about how He suffered and died in the sinner’s place, while at the same time offering up to God in the place of sinners a perfect sinless righteous life. This is the good news of the gospel, that Jesus Christ as God-sent and God-approved Saviour, as Isaiah 53 further declares, “*...was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him;*

*and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, everyone, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*”

You see, Jesus Christ in His life and death and with His resurrection was always ministering as the Substitute for sinners, and through His once for all sacrifice He is truly the Saviour of sinners, exceptionally so, for His precious blood cleanses us from all sin, even for as many as trust and follow Him. No sinner’s case is hopeless with Jesus as Saviour of sinners, but every sinner’s case is totally without help and hope apart from Jesus the Saviour. Jesus as Saviour is an overflowing fountain of mercy and forgiveness and deliverance for all who come to Him. And Jesus is the exceptional Saviour for all He has done and all He is as Saviour of sinners and all He promises is freely offered, without price, without money. With Jesus, the exclusive and exceptional Saviour of sinners, you are saved by grace alone through faith alone.

Any and all preaching of Jesus will emphasize these unchanging glorious gospel truths about Jesus, the Saviour of sinners. Are they what you receive and believe in your heart and life too? Clearly this preaching of Jesus was something that the Ethiopian eunuch received and believed in his heart. Looking further at his story, it is plain too that Philip preached Jesus and the eunuch received Jesus also as the Saviour of sinners everlastingly so. We can know this from the little special detail we read in verse 39 about the eunuch that “*he went on his way rejoicing.*” This is surprising for we are told how after Philip preached awhile and the eunuch believed and was baptized, then suddenly Philip, by the Holy Spirit, was removed from the eunuch, being sent elsewhere to preach Jesus. Yet see this eunuch, all alone in the desert, headed to his home country where he would be, if not the only, yet one of very few, Christians, still we are told, “*he went on his way rejoicing!*”

How could this be? Because Jesus is the Saviour of sinners for real and for always, the Saviour **everlastingly so!** He never leaves His people and is always present with them to bless and to help, to guide and to keep in the way everlasting to eternal glory. All sins and sinfulness and Satan and this godless world will be finally and fully overcome through Jesus Christ the Lord. What challenges in life we can meet with, also as confessing Christians, but Jesus is able and willing to make us more than conquerors. He remains unchangingly the Saviour and Helper of His people no matter whoever or what else may come and go. Jesus Christ is the most excellent and exalted Saviour of sinners, exclusively so, exceptionally so, and everlastingly so.

Being a true Christian means believing and confessing this and desiring to be refreshed and encouraged in this Christian faith and way, again and again. Then you cherish and value so much also the Christian worship services and being under the preached Word regularly. Is this what you do too? Do you so honor Jesus in praise also to God Triune for so great and glorious a Saviour as given to us in Jesus and declared to us in His Word, and signed and sealed to us in the sacraments?