

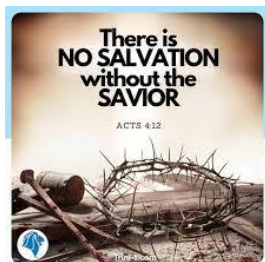
**THANK YOU!**  
**Joe Griffin**  
**Today's Speaker**

# Indio Informer

**REMINDER...Business Meeting today at 2:30 p.m.**

Vol. 34 No. 16

April 16, 2023



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### April Birthdays

3 Amanda Hoffman 6 Susan Hudson  
16 Alana Hudson 23 Shannon Hudson

### April Anniversaries

19 Bill & Kena Brown

## Christ...the "Only Savior"

By Mike Riley

Christianity differs from all other religions of the world in that it is the only religion that has a savior. According to Matthew 1:21, this savior's name is Jesus, "*for he shall save his people from their sins.*" In referring to Jesus, Peter declared, "*Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved*" (Acts 4:10,12).

### No "Savior" In Judaism

In the first century, the Jews rejected Christ as their savior (Acts 13:44-46). Jesus had warned them in John 8:24 that unless they repented and accepted Him, they would "die in their sins." Since they refused Jesus and his offer of pardon, they must pay the penalty for their own sins; that penalty is spiritual death (Romans 6:23; cf. Isaiah 59:1-2).

### No "Savior" In Islam

The Koran nowhere claims that their prophet, Mohammad, was sinless. Mohammad could not die for your sins or mine, because like all men, he sinned (Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8-10). Since he sinned, any death that he suffered could only be regarded as a penalty for his own sins.

### No "Savior" In Buddhism

Buddha's real name was Siddhartha Gautama. He lived from about 566 B.C. to 483 B.C. As far as history tells us, Siddhartha Gautama never claimed to be a savior, only a mere man. As a man who sinned, any death that he suffered can only be reckoned as penalty for his own sins.

#### Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Website:  
[indiochurchofchrist.com](http://indiochurchofchrist.com)

Preacher: Vacant

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## Conclusion:

In contrast to the above sinful men, Christ lived an entirely sinless life (John 8:46; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22,24; 1 John 3:5; cf. Isaiah 53:9). Every other human who has ever lived has at some point in their life sinned. This is why only our Savior's death upon the cross can be applied to you and me. Jesus did not deserve the death that he died, because He never sinned.

As Christians, let us praise God for the wonderful provision of His sinless Son, and our "only Savior" (2 Timothy 1:10; Titus 1:4; Titus 2:13; Titus 3:6; 2 Peter 1:1). Because He was sinless, only He could die in our place. Because He died in our place, His death can be applied to our account before God. ***"For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him"*** (2 Corinthians 5:21).

## Who Crucified Jesus?

By Ron Bartanen

I recently read an article which said that anti-Semitism has risen world-wide. This persecution of Jews is reported to not be solely from Muslims, but from nominal Christians as well. Some of these go so far as to hatefully chastise them as "Christ-killers." Such, of course, are not imitating Christ, who prayed for those involved in His crucifixion, *"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do"* (Luke 23:34).

There were, of course, certain Jewish leaders who conspired for His death, and other Jews who agreed to it, but they alone were not responsible. Without Pilate's and Rome's approval, it could not have been done. On Pentecost Sunday following the death and resurrection of Jesus, Peter addressed some of these, declaring, *"Him...you have taken (and) by lawless hands have crucified and put to death"* (Acts 2:23, NKJ). Though done in ignorance, they

were not guiltless; but theirs was not the only guilt. It was done through *"lawless hands"*—through those who were *"without law"* (1 Cor. 9:21), Gentiles. To be more specific, the deed was done through Roman officials and soldiers. Should we therefore blame the Romans (Italians)? It was soldiers from Rome who mocked Jesus, scourged Him, drove the nails into His hands and feet, and completed their task by thrusting a spear into His side to assure His death.

The fact of the matter is that the responsibility for His death is shared by ALL. Isaiah had prophesied 700 years before this event, saying, *"...the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all"* (Isa. 53:6b). The sins of humanity put Jesus on the tree, and that includes my sins and your sins. We crucified Jesus! To satisfy divine justice, and yet to show grace and mercy to us sinners, the crucifixion was no mere senseless martyrdom, but was accomplished by *"the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God..."* (Acts 2:23a).

Those who would seek to put the blame for Jesus death upon the Jews should also recognize that Jesus also was a Jew. It was He who declared, *"Salvation is of the Jews"* (John 4:22b). The apostles were Jews. The first Christians were Jews. The New Testament Scriptures were written by converted Jews. Paul, though he suffered many things at the hands of Jews, still maintained them to be *"beloved for the sake of the fathers"* (Romans 11:28b)—the "fathers" referring to the covenant God had years before made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

As we would ponder the death of our Lord and Savior, it must not be that we pass the blame on to others. We should, instead, say, as did Paul, that He *"loved me and gave Himself for me"* (Galatians 2:20). We all had our part. Were it not for our sins, Christ would not have died.

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