

John 4:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

Analysis

The Samaritans' confession that Jesus is 'the Saviour of the world' (not just of Jews) represents remarkable theological insight. This title appears only here and 1 John 4:14, emphasizing universal salvation scope. Their faith no longer depends on the woman's testimony but on personal knowledge. Reformed theology affirms that saving faith requires personal appropriation, not vicarious experience.

Historical Context

The title 'Savior of the world' was used in the Roman Empire for the Emperor, making this confession politically charged. The Samaritans recognize Christ's authority transcends both Jewish and Roman claims.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing Christ as Savior of 'the world' expand our vision beyond tribal or national Christianity?
2. What is the difference between belief based on testimony versus belief based on personal knowledge of Christ?

Interlinear Text

τῇ τε γυναικὶ ἔλεγον ὅτι Οὐκέτι διὰ τὴν σὴν
G3588 **And** G5037 **unto the woman** G1135 **said** G3004 **not** G3754 **Now** G3765 **because** G1223 G3588 **of thy** G4674

λαλιὰν πιστεύομεν· αὐτοὶ γὰρ ἀκηκόαμεν καὶ
saying G2981 **we believe** G4100 **him ourselves** G846 **for** G1063 **we have heard** G191 **and** G2532

οἶδαμεν ὅτι οὗτός ἐστιν ἀληθῶς ὁ σωτὴρ τοῦ
know G1492 **not** G3754 **this** G3778 **is** G2076 **indeed** G230 G3588 **the Saviour** G4990 G3588

κόσμου ὁ Χριστός
of the world G2889 G3588 **the Christ** G5547

Additional Cross-References

1 John 4:14 (Salvation): And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

Acts 4:12 (Salvation): Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

1 John 5:20 (References Christ): And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

John 1:29 (Parallel theme): The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

1 Timothy 4:10 (Salvation): For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.

2 Corinthians 5:19 (References Christ): To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

John 4:29 (References Christ): Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

John 17:8 (Faith): For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

Isaiah 45:22 (Salvation): Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

Luke 2:32 (Parallel theme): A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.