

**No.8728**

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING SALVATION IN JESUS CHRIST**

**REFERRED by the General Assembly to the Commission on Theology and Christian Unity with a report to be brought to the 1988 General Board meeting.**

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WHEREAS, the Bible refers in numerous places to Jesus Christ as savior, redeemer, giver of eternal life, sacrifice, etc.; and

WHEREAS, Acts 4:12 says very clearly that "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved," and

WHEREAS, freedom of interpretation and diversity of belief within the confines of Christian faith are cherished ideals of our church, we also recognize that diversity cannot be limitless and still be Christian. There is no room for diversity in regard to the central truth of the New Testament, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, Lord and Savior of the world, and all persons are called to trust in him alone for salvation.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, October 16-21, 1987, reaffirms the historic faith of the entire Christian Church in general and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in particular, that Jesus Christ is the only Savior of the world, and that apart from him there is no salvation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly urges all our churches and institutions to weigh carefully the implications of this central truth and to do whatever is necessary to insure that our programs and activities are centered on Christ, and consistent with the fact that He alone is Savior and Lord.

First Christian Church  
Decatur, Illinois

The General Board recommends that the General Assembly REFER Resolution No. 8728 to The Commission on Theology and Christian Unity, with a report to be brought to the 1988 General Board meeting. Reasons given for this recommendation were:

1. The need for our church to remain true to its rejection of creedal statements as "tests of faith".
2. That this commission can give the church guidance and direction on the central theological concept addressed in this resolution.
3. The spirit of this resolution would seem to endanger the richness of the diversity and freedom within our church.  
(Debate time 24 minutes)

#8728

In consideration of this business item during the meeting of the General Board, July 18-21, 1987, the following pro and con statements were expressed:

**Pro**

1. If Disciples don't believe this (that Jesus "is the only Savior"), what do we believe?
2. When someone comes to unite with the church, the question asked is "Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and do you accept him as your Lord and Savior?" Do we have some problem with that?
3. To say that Christ is at the center of our faith is not to say we have a quarrel with other religions. In fact, those groups would not respect us if we backed away from the very basis of Christianity.
4. Consideration of this resolution provides Disciples an opportunity to clarify their Christology as a church.

**Con**

1. Not as innocent as it seems on the surface, this resolution actually is a creedal statement of the sort Disciples have avoided.
2. This is the sort of resolution that could lead to an inquisition and witch hunts.
3. To imply that it is heretical to find truth in other religions is unfair.
4. Saying "if you are not a Christian there is no hope for you" would cut Disciples off from inter-faith dialogue.
5. It is possible to disapprove of this resolution without rejecting the centrality of Christ.
6. We need some option other than voting on such a divisive resolution.