Sermon: **It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth that this man stands before you healed** (Acts 4.10)

**The stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone** (Acts 4.11)

**Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name … given ... by which we must be saved.** (Acts 4.12)

Donald Trump has made some astonishing claims (eg Inauguration numbers), are any true?

Acts 4.10-12 has some astonishing claims. They are partly astonishing because Peter made them (a few days earlier he was in hiding for fear of ‘the Jews’, and previously had denied knowing Jesus).

Also partly astonishing because of what he said about Jesus. Is what he said true though?

[1] The name of Jesus (Acts 4.10)

Name = Power. Jesus has power to do that which is in keeping with the Kingdom of God.

Eg John Plummer who found forgiveness from Phan Thi Kim Phuc, after many years, and a crumbling life.

[2] The standard of Jesus (cornerstone) (Acts 4.11)

Psalm 118.22: **The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.**

Is 28.16 (**I am placing in Zion a foundation that is firm and strong. In it I am putting a solid cornerstone on which are written the words, ‘faith that is firm is also patient’**)

Acts 4.11, Luke 20.17 quote the former and 1 Peter 2.6-7 quotes both.

Ephesians 2.20 (…**built on the foundation of the apostles & prophets, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone**)

Clearly an important idea. The job of the cornerstone is to be right, so all can be aligned to it.

Everything we are as Christians and as a church must be aligned to Jesus, ie in keeping with his standard.

[3] The salvation of Jesus (Acts 4.12)

Salvation – usually refers to physical *and* spiritual healing (rarely distinguished).

Often when we are physically unwell it also affects the spirit – seldom acknowledged by medics.
The ‘only’ sounds arrogant in today’s world, but this was Peter’s firm belief, based on the change he saw in himself through the Spirit of Jesus. More importantly it is not special knowledge or ‘knowing ourselves’ that brings this healing or change, but God.

These may be astonishing claims but millions of Christians have found them true for themselves.