

# The Saved and the Church

## Introduction

1. It is a very popular opinion in society today that one church is just as good as another.
2. Many believe that church membership has nothing to do with one's salvation.
  - A. **Many reason: Surely not all those "other" churches will be lost!**
3. But I would like to show you this morning from God's Word that those that are saved are in "the church" and only those that are in "the church" can be saved eternally.

Matthew 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will **build My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

4. The New Testament teaches that membership in the body of Christ, which is the church, is necessary for salvation.
  - A. To deny this truth, would involve a rejection of a number of basic Bible facts.
  - B. Let's look at some points that prove that those that are saved are in "the church" and only those that are in "the church" can be saved eternally.

## Justified in Christ

### 1. What does the Bible mean by being “justified?”

**A. That means “to be free from guilt”. We have been freed from guilt through the blood of Jesus Christ.**

**1) God does not forgive our sins without the shedding of blood, *and* our justification is made possible only by the blood of Jesus.**

Hebrews 9:22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

Romans 5:9 Much more then, having now been **justified by His blood**, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

**2) We are also only redeemed (rescued) through the blood of Jesus.**

1 Peter 1:18-19 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, **but with the precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

### 2. The apostle Paul tells us some valuable truths concerning the blood of Christ.

Acts 20:28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God **which He purchased with His own blood**.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and **gave Himself for her**,

1 Corinthians 6:20 For **you were bought at a price**; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

3. **We can learn two things from these verses that we have read:**
  - A. **Salvation can only be obtained through the blood of Christ.**
  - B. **One cannot be purchased with the blood of Christ without being part of his purchased possession, the church.**

## Reconciled to God

1. **Only those who have been redeemed (rescued, bought with a price), will have their names written in the book of life.**  
**Revelation 20:12-15**
  - A. **We are told in Hebrews that the ones which are written (enrolled) in heaven are the “church of the firstborn.”**

Hebrews 12:23 to the general assembly and **church of the firstborn** who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,

2. **We learn that the saved are only those who have their membership in the “church of the firstborn” and their name recorded in the book of life.**

## Child of God

1. **The Bible teaches us the following points concerning our salvation and being children of God. Notice:**  
**Romans 8:14, 17**  
**Galatians 3:26-27**
  - A. **Every responsible person is either a child of God or a child of Satan. (1 John 3:10)**
    - 1) **God’s children are in His family**
      - a. **Becoming a child of God necessitates that we enter the “household of God”, which is the church (1 Timothy 3:15).**

## Saved by Baptism

### 1. **Baptism is necessary in order to have forgiveness of sins. Peter said:**

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

#### **A. Jesus Himself made belief and baptism conditions of salvation.**

Mark 16:16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

#### **B. It is baptism that puts one into the body of Christ, which is the church of Christ. What other church would one be baptized into? Notice:**

1 Cor 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all **baptized into one body**-- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free-- and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

#### **1) Now notice what the apostle Paul identifies the body as:**

Ephesians 1:22-23 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things **to the church, which is His body**, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also **Christ is head of the church**; and **He is the Savior of the body**.

Colossians 1:18 And **He is the head of the body, the church**, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

### 2. **Baptism puts one into the body, the church. Therefore salvation can only be obtained by one entering into the church.**

## Numbered with the Saved

**1. The English word “church” literally means “the called out” or “congregation”.**

**A. As people are called out of the world through the gospel of Jesus, they are being added to the church. Notice:**

Acts 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

**B. One is only saved when he is called out of the world and added to the Lord’s church. The church is composed of only the saved!**

**2. In many people’s minds the word “church” implies a denomination, a man-made religious body, an organization or society with its own hierarchy.**

**A. Some reason that one denomination is just as good as another.**

**B. Many think that membership in a particular denomination is not essential to one’s salvation.**

## Conclusion

- 1. It is tragic that many today do not fully understand what the church is in New Testament usage!**
- 2. Jesus' church, the one that He purchased with His blood is not a denomination, nor is it a mystical conglomeration composed of all man-made religious bodies.**
- 3. The church of Christ is the body of Christ, the family or house of God, the kingdom, the people belonging to the Lord.**
- 4. No accountable person in this age is promised salvation outside the Lord's church.**
- 5. To be saved, we must submit to God by obeying Jesus, the Son of God.**
  - A. To be in Christ is to be in the church over which He is the head!**

## Invitation

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