

## **IN CHRIST, IN HIS CHURCH**

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Some people believe:
  - a. Jesus Christ is all-important (and rightly so), but that the church is unimportant.
  - b. One must be in Christ to be saved and in order to go to heaven; but that one can be saved and go to heaven without being in the church.
  - c. And say “preach Christianity but not churchanity”!
2. What these people do not realize:
  - a. Is that they do not believe nor teach what the Bible teaches when they teach such things.
  - b. Is that one cannot preach Christ in his fullness without also preaching his church. Cf. Eph.1:22,23.
  - c. Is that one cannot be saved and be in Christ without also being in his church. d. Is that to be in Christ is also to be in his church.
3. Thus our topic for discussion for which we shall offer Bible proof – book, chapter, and verse – is: **IN CHRIST, IN HIS CHURCH**. In other words, we are saying, and will prove from the Bible, that “To be in Christ is to be in his church – the church belonging to Christ – the church of Christ.”

### **II. DISCUSSION**

#### **A. THE N.T. TEACHES THAT WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD**

1. That this reconciliation is “by Christ” and “in Christ,” Col.1:19-22; 2Cor.5:17-19. See Heb.2:17; 2Cor.5:20.
2. That this reconciliation is also in “one body,” Eph.2:11-16.
  - a. But this “one body” is the church of which Christ is the head and the Savior, Eph.1:22,23; 5:22-27; Col.1:18,24.
  - b. And there is only “one body,” Eph.4:4.
  - c. See Eph.2:17-22, “of the household of God,” and “an habitation of God”. Cf. Gal.6:9,10; 1Tim.3:14,15.
3. Therefore, we are reconciled unto God in Christ in one body, the church belonging to Christ.

#### **B. THE N.T. TEACHES WE ARE “CALLED IN THE LORD,” BUT WE ARE “CALLED IN ONE BODY,” WHICH IS THE CHURCH.**

1. 1Cor.7:22: “For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord’s freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ’s servant.”
2. Col.3:15: “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”
3. This is N.T. proof that we are “called in the Lord,” but “also ye are called in one body”.

4. Furthermore, there is only one calling which is the heavenly calling of which brethren are partakers, and which is by the gospel of Christ, and to which we are to “walk worthy...endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the body of peace,” with no division among us, for Christ is not divided, Heb.3:1; 2Th.2:13,14; Eph.4:1-6; 1cor.1:10-13.
5. Therefore, we are called in the Lord in one body by the gospel of Christ.

**C. THE N.T. TEACHES THAT IF WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD, WE ARE HEIRS, HEIRS OF GOD IN CHRIST, JOINT-HEIRS WITH CHRIST, AND THAT IT IS IN THE BODY (THE CHURCH) BY THE GOSPEL.**

1. Rom.8:16,17; Heb.1:1,2; Gal.4:7; Eph.3:1-6; Eph.1:9-23.
2. Therefore, we are heirs of God in Christ in one body, the church.

**D. THE N.T. TEACHES THAT BY FAITH, REPENTANCE AND CONFESSION OF FAITH WE ARE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST, AND THAT WE ARE ALSO BAPTIZED INTO ONE BODY.**

1. Ac.2:36-41; 8:26-39; 22:16; Rom.6:3-5; Gal.3:26,27.
2. 1Cor.12:13.
  - a. The Spirit is the agent.
  - b. Water is the element.
  - c. Jno.3:3-5; Tit.3:4-7.
3. Therefore, by faith we are baptized into Christ and into one body, the church.
4. By one and the same operation we enter Christ and his church.

**E. FURTHERMORE, SALVATION IS IN CHRIST, WHERE ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS ARE LOCATED (2Tim.2:10; Eph.1:3). BUT TO BE SAVED ONE MUST BY FAITH BE BAPTIZED IN THE NAME OF CHRIST (Ac.2:36-41; 22:16; Mk.16:15,16).**

1. But when one is saved the Lord adds him to the church, Ac.2:47.

**III. CONCLUSION**

1. Therefore, to be saved and to be in Christ is to be in the Lord’s church.
2. Since one can’t go to heaven without being in Christ, and since one can’t be in Christ without being saved, and since one can’t be saved and be in Christ without being in the Lord’s church, then one can’t get to heaven without being in the Lord’s church.
3. Since the church is the fullness of Christ (Eph.1:22,23), one can’t preach Christ in his fullness without preaching his church.
4. Therefore, to preach Christ one must preach the church. But to preach either Christ or the church, they must be preached in the proper Scriptural relationship to each other.
5. If you are in Christ, you are in his church. If you are not in his church you are not in Christ, Mt.16:16-18; Ac.2:47; Eph.5:23-27.

