

SAVED OUTSIDE THE CHURCH?
Or
Must One Be A Member Of The Church To Be Saved?
Ac.2:36-41,47
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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Some people say, “No.”
 - a. “Saved, then join the church of your choice.”
 - b. “Saved, never join any church. Church not necessary.”
2. According to the Scriptures, Jesus Christ says, “Yes.”
3. By “saved” I mean “remission of past sins and hope of eternal life.”
4. By “the church” I mean “the N.T. church, the church we read about in the N.T., the one belonging to the Lord, the one Jesus said he would build, the one identified as the body of the saved.”
5. So, I’m asking, Must one be a member of that church in order to saved by Jesus Christ, the Savior?

II. DISCUSSION

A. If not, then one can be saved and have hope of eternal life without being purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ.

1. This is true because it is only through his blood:
 - a. That the sinner is redeemed, Eph.1:7; Col.1:14; 1Pet.1:18,19.
 - b. That the sinner is washed and cleansed from his sins, 1Jno.1:7; Rev.1:5.
 - c. That the sinner who was far off is made nigh, Eph.2:13.
 - d. That the sinner is purged, redeemed and has hope of eternal life, Heb.9:13-15.
2. Those redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ are said to have been bought or purchased by that blood; that they therefore belong to him, they are not their own, 1Cor.6:19,20. Cf. 1Pet.1:18,19.
3. But according to Ac.20:28, the church belonging to the Lord is what has been purchased with the blood of Jesus Christ. So the

church and those redeemed and or purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ are one and the same.

4. Therefore, if one can be saved without being a member of the church, those purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ, then one can be saved without being purchased by the blood of Christ.
 - a. In other words, the consequence of this doctrine is that the death of Christ was not necessary for the salvation of the sinner!

B. If not, then one can be saved and have hope of eternal life without being reconciled to God.

1. The Scriptures teach that all those in sin, those without Christ, prior to believing and obeying the gospel of Christ, are without God, alienated from God, and have no hope in that state, Eph.2:11-13; 4:18; Col.1:21.
2. To be saved and become a new creature in Christ and have hope of eternal life, the sinner, the alienated one, must be reconciled to God by the death, by the blood, of his Son, Rom.5:10; 2Cor.5:18-20; Col.1:19-23; Heb.2:17.
3. But according to the Scriptures, those reconciled to God by the blood of his Son are reconciled unto God in “one body,” and are of “the household of God,” Eph.2:16-19.
4. Moreover, the “one body” is the Lord’s church, Eph.4:4-6; 1:22,23; Col.1:18,24; Eph.5:23-27; Cf. Mt.16:18.
5. “The household of God” is God’s family, his sons and daughters, the new creatures in Christ, by virtue of the new birth of Jno.3:3,5 (Cf. Ac.2:21,36-41; Rom.10:9-17), and is , according to 1Tim.3:14,15, “the church of the living God.”
6. Therefore, if one can be saved and have hope of eternal life without being a member of the church, then he can do so without being reconciled to God from his alienated state, without being one of God’s spiritual family!
7. Again, the consequences of this doctrine is that the death of Christ was not necessary, and God was wrong for requiring him to die for our sins!

C. If not, then one can be saved and have hope of eternal life without obeying the Lord who is the author of eternal salvation unto those who obey him and of no other.

1. Consider heb.5:8,9; Lk.6:46; Jno.12:48; Mt.7:21-27.
2. God the Father delegated all authority in heaven and earth to Jesus by which he commissioned his chosen Apostles to preach salvation and its conditions in his name or by his authority, Deut.18:18,19; Ac.3:19-23; Mt.28:18-20; Mk.16:15,16,19,20; Mt.16:18,19; 18:18; Jno.20:19-23.
3. These apostles of Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit, began on Pentecost to fulfill their mission in preaching the plan of salvation in the name of the risen Lord, Ac.2:1-4,36-41.
4. Without a doubt, they taught the necessity of both faith and obedience as the point at which the sinner is saved, Rom.1:5; 6:16-18; 16:25,26; 1Pet.4:17,18; 2Th.1:6-10; Jas.2:24.
5. Under direct orders from Jesus they taught and bound on earth the plan of salvation, which includes: Faith, Repentance, Confession of Jesus, Baptism for the remission of sins, that when one does this he is saved from past sins, and the Lord adds the saved, all the saved, to the church, Ac.2:41,47.
6. Therefore, if one can be saved without being a member of the church, then one can be saved without believing and obeying the Lord who is the author of eternal salvation unto those who obey him.

D. If not, then one can be saved and have hope of eternal salvation without being saved!

1. You say, "How can that be?!" That's just the point. It can't be!
2. According to Ac.2:27, the Lord adds the saved to the church.
 - a. Questions: Who are the saved according to Ac.2? Vv.21,36-41.
 - b. By whose authority did they preach this? Mk.16:15,16,19,20; Cf. Mt.16:19; 18:18; Ac.1:1-8; 2:1-4.
 - c. Who did the adding to the church? The Lord himself.
 - d. Whom did he add to the church? The saved.
 - e. How many of the saved did he add? All! None left out!
 - f. To whose church did he add the saved? Mt.16:18, his!
3. According to the Scriptures, if and when a sinner, any sinner, is saved he is then and there added to the Lord's church by the Lord himself.
4. There is no Scriptural record of any one being saved in this the N.T. age outside the Lord's church. There is no such thing as a

saved sinner outside the Lord's church; the church is the body of the saved; it is the saved; Jesus is the head and Savior of the body, the church.

III. CONCLUSION

1. The doctrine of salvation outside of being in Christ and in his church, the body of the saved, is of man, is false, is promoted by Satan's ministers, and is soul-condemning!
2. To teach one can be saved outside the church is equivalent to teaching salvation without being in Christ and without the blood of Christ!
3. In reality, to be in Christ and to be in his church is one and the same thing. And the process by which we enter the one, we enter the other – by faith we are baptized into each, Rom.6:3-6; Gal.3:26,27; 1Cor.12:12,13.
4. With all sincerity, with all the fervor of our being, we plead with you to open your eyes, ears and heart to the truth, turn from this idea and come to the Lord by obeying the gospel now before it is too late!