CAN ONE BE SAVED OUT OF THE CHURCH?

Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. Many religious people today do not believe that the church is essential to man’s salvation.
2. They hold the view that "Church membership is not necessary to one's salvation".
3. The question is NOT "Does the church save?" -- GOD IS THE ONE WHO SAVES -- Eph. 5:23
4. The question IS: "Does one have to be a member of Christ's church to enjoy the salvation that God has provided in Christ?"
5. I affirm the New Testament teaches that one does.

I. ALL THAT HAVE BEEN SAVED HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE CHURCH

   2. The Lord adds all the saved to the church; no saved person is outside of the church.

II. ALL THAT HAVE BEEN SAVED HAVE BEEN RECONCILED UNTO GOD IN ONE BODY -- THE CHURCH.

   1. Eph. 2: 16, 13
   2. Eph. 1: 22 - 23

III. THE CHURCH IS THE FAMILY OF GOD

   1. I Tim. 3:15 -- "The house of God" -- the idea of "house" is family -- Heb. 10:21; Heb. 11: 7
   2. The church being the family of God means that all of God's children are in the church because He has no children out of His family -- Rom. 8: 16 - 17; I John 3:10
   3. If a person can be saved out of the church he can be saved out of God's family.

IV. ALL WHO HAVE BEEN SAVED HAVE BEEN TRANSLATED INTO THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST

   1. Col. 1:13
   2. The kingdom and church are the same in the New Testament -- Matt. 16: 18 - 19
   3. To be in the kingdom is to be in the church.
   4. One enters the kingdom by the New Birth -- John 3: 3- 5
   5. One enters the church the same way -- I Cor. 12:13; Eph. 5:26
   6. Only those in the kingdom will Christ deliver up to the Father in the End -- I Cor. 15:24

V. ONLY THOSE IN THE CHURCH HAVE THEIR NAMES WRITTEN IN HEAVEN

   1. Heb. 12:23
   2. Those who do not have their names written in the book of life are LOST-- Rev. 20:15; Rev. 21:27

VI. ONLY THOSE IN THE CHURCH ARE PURCHASED WITH THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

   2. Those not in the church are not blood bought -- Heb. 9: 22
VII. ONLY THOSE IN THE CHURCH HAVE BEEN CALLED OUT OF THE WORLD
1. The church is the "called out" -- this is the meaning of the word "EKKLESIA".
2. We are called by the gospel -- II Thess. 2:14
3. I Cor. 1:9

VIII. SALVATION IS IN THE CHURCH, FOR PAUL PROMISED THAT CHRIST WOULD SAVE THE CHURCH-- Eph. 5:23
1. All out of the church are living without hope -- II Thess. 1:8 - 9

IX. SALVATION IS IN THE CHURCH BECAUSE THAT IS THE GROUP THAT CHRIST WILL PRESENT UNTO HIMSELF
1. Eph. 5:27

X. SALVATION IS IN THE CHURCH BECAUSE JESUS HAS BUT "ONE FOLD" FOR THE SAVED, AND THAT FOLD IS THE CHURCH.

XI. SALVATION IS IN THE CHURCH BECAUSE THE CHURCH IS THE CALLED, AND THE CALLED ARE JUSTIFIED.
1. Col. 3:15; Rom. 8:30

XII. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO BE SAVED OUT OF THE CHURCH BECAUSE THE CHURCH IS THE "FULLNESS OF CHRIST"
1. Eph. 1:22 - 23

CONCLUSION
1. The same process and conditions that saves one from sin makes one a Christian and adds one to the church.
2. Mark 16:15 - 16; Gal. 3:26 - 27; Acts 2:41, 47

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