SALVATION AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

INTRODUCTION:

1. Most religious people today do not believe that the church is essential to man’s salvation; they say that man is saved and then he joins a church.

2. They want to separate Christ and His church – they say “I follow Christ”, but don’t believe you have to be IN the church to be saved.

3. These people view the church from a DENOMINATIONAL viewpoint.

4. I agree fully that one does not have to be a member of a denomination to be saved – the Lord had nothing to do with the starting of denominationalism.

5. But, one DOES have to be a member of the Lord’s church to be saved because that is what the church is – it is the saved—the called out, the ekklesia.

   (1) All that have been called by the gospel (II Thess. 2:14) have been added to the church ( Acts 2:47).

6. The church does not save, it is God that saves – the church IS the saved. Lk. 19: 10; I Tim. 2: 3-4

7. Let us study some scriptural reasons that prove membership in Christ’s church is essential to salvation.

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. 2:13

   (1) WHAT – made nigh
(2) HOW—by the blood of Christ

(3) WHERE—in Christ Jesus

2. Eph. 2:16

(1) WHAT – reconcile

(2) HOW—by the cross

(3) WHERE—in the body

3. Eph. 1: 22 – 23

III. THE CHURCH IS THE FAMILY OF GOD. Eph. 2:19

1. I Tim. 3:15 – The house of God – the idea of “house” is family. Heb. 11:7

2. The church being the family of God means – all of God’s children are in the church, because He has no children out of His family. Rom. 8: 16 – 17

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 INSTITUTION 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


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

1. Acts 20:28; I Cor. 6: 19 – 20; I Pet. 1: 18 – 19; Eph. 5:25

(1) Church members are blood-bought – non-members are not. Heb. 9:22

(2) The church is the ONLY thing bought with the blood of Christ.

(3) If the church is not essential, the blood is not essential. Matt. 26 – 28

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; Col. 3:15

VIII. SALVATION IS IN THE CHURCH BECAUSE PAUL PROMISED THAT CHRIST WOULD SAVE THE CHURCH.

1. Eph. 5:23

2. 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

2. One NOT in the church WILL NOT be presented to Christ.

X. SALVATION IS IN THE CHURCH BECAUSE THE CHURCH IS THE CALLED, AND THE CALLED ARE JUSTIFIED.

1. “Called in one body” – Col. 3:15

2. “Whom He called, them He also justified…” … Rom. 8:30

XI. JESUS HAS BUT ONE FOLD FOR THE SAVED; THAT ONE FOLD IS THE CHURCH.

1. John 10: 16

2. Acts 20: 28

3. Eph. 2: 16

XII. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO BE SAVED OUT OF THE CHURCH BECAUSE THE CHURCH IS THE FULNESS OF CHRIST.

1. Eph. 1: 22 – 23

CONCLUSION:

1. The same process and conditions that SAVES from sin makes one a CHRISTIAN, and ADDS one to the church.

2. Mk. 16: 15 – 16; Gal. 3: 26 – 27; Acts 2: 41, 47