

WHY I AM A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST #12

I Am A Member Of The Church Of Christ Because...

IT IS "THE" CHURCH IN WHICH ONE IS SAVED.

When all is said and done, the most important question of life is: "am I forgiven of my sins?" After we're dead and gone, it will not matter what we had or did not have in life — what we accomplished or how important we thought we were in society. If we die outside of Christ and His church, our soul will be eternally lost. Come judgment day, all that will matter is, did I obey the Gospel and live a faithful life before God? Jesus said, "*For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul*" (Matt. 16:26)?

Men have long said that one does not have to be a member of the church to be saved. They say, "the church does not save you, Jesus does." If by that they mean a denominational church, then they are correct. But if reference is made to the Lord's church, the church of Christ, the church for which he shed his blood and died (Acts 20:38), then they are wrong.

If the church is not important, then Jesus died in vain. The Lord's church, Christ's church, the church of Christ, is essential to salvation. As a matter of fact, there is no salvation without it. **If one can be saved without the church, then one can be saved without Christ** because the two cannot be separated. You can't have the head (Christ) without the body (church) and you can't have the body without the

head. You either have both, or neither.

The Lord's church is not a physical building. It is a spiritual body (1 Peter 2:5; 1 Tim. 3:15) made up of those who are saved (Acts 2:47). Jesus said his church is a kingdom that is "*not of this world*" (John 18:36).

Salvation is found only in the Lord's church and no other. The **body** of Christ is the **church** of Christ (Col. 1:18), and Jesus is "*...the saviour of the body*" (Eph. 5:23). If you are a faithful member of the church/body you will be saved (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:6-8). If you are not IN the church/body you will not be saved! When one "obeys the gospel" (2 Thess. 1:8), he is added by the Lord to his church. "*Then they that gladly received his word were **baptized**: and the same day there were **added** unto them about three thousand souls. ... And the Lord **added to the church** daily such as should be saved*" (Acts 2:41,47). To be added to the church of Christ, one must: **believe** in Christ (John 8:24), **repent** of sins (Acts 2:38), **confess** faith in Christ (Acts 8:37) and be **baptized** to wash their sins away in Christ's blood (Acts 22:16).

It is only IN the church of Christ that one is reconciled to God (Eph. 2:16). One is not restored to fellowship with God outside the Lord's church. Reconciliation is IN the church! It is IN the church of Christ that God receives glory (Eph. 3:21), not outside of it.

Won't you become a member of the church of Christ today? Believe and obey to be saved.

— Garland M. Robinson