

“Salvation is in the Church”

Matt. 16:18

Introduction

- I. Christ only built one church (Matt. 16:18).
- II. Why is that so hard to accept for so many people?
- III. The notion that “one church is as good as another” is a terrible untruth.

Discussion

- I. Did God promise salvation out of the church?
 - A. Isaiah prophesied that salvation would be in “Zion”, which is the church (Isa. 46:13; Heb. 12:21-23).
 - B. The word “church” is translated from the Greek word “ekklesia”, which means “the called out”.
 1. Called out of the world.
 2. The “calling” is the Gospel (2 Thess. 2:14; Col. 3:15)
 3. “Church” is found in New Testament about 110 times, 18 of such are references to the church in general.
 4. Outside of the church are the lost (Col. 1:13, 18, 24).
 - C. Christ did not build something that is irrelevant, or that was not intended to last (Matt. 7:24-26).
- II. What else does the Bible say the church is?
 - A. The body of Christ (Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-23; if saved out of the church, then saved out of the body of Christ).
 - B. The kingdom of Christ (Matt. 16:18-19; Luke 22:30; Matt. 12:26; Col. 1:13; John 3:5; if saved out of the church, then saved out of Christ's kingdom).
 - C. The house/family of God (1 Tim. 3:15; if saved out of the church, then saved out of God's family (1 Pet. 4:17; John 8:44; 1 John 3:10; John 3:5).
 - D. The Lord's flock/sheepfold (John 10:16; Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:1-3; if saved out of the church, then saved out of the flock).
 - E. The bride of Christ (Eph. 5:23; Rev. 21:9; Rom. 7:4; if saved out of the church, then saved out of Christ's bride).
 - F. The redeemed (Eph. 5:25; Acts 20:28; if saved out the church, then saved without being redeemed).
 - G. The holy place, with Christ as High Priest (Heb. 10:19-22; 1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Pet. 2:5; if saved out of the church, then saved without a High Priest).

Conclusion

- I. Salvation is in the church of Christ.
- II. Trying to find salvation in any other “church” is a fruitless endeavor.