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Is the Lord's Church Essential to One's Salvation?

JESUS PROMISED TO BUILD HIS CHURCH

Now why would the Lord promise to build a church if it had nothing to do with man's salvation? Jesus said, "I will build my church", (Matt. 16:18). He further stated that, "The gates of Hell shall not prevail against it", (same verse). So there was NOTHING which could prevent the establishment of the church, nor destroy it after the Lord established it. (Dan. 2:44) Of course men have, in later times, established hundreds of churches, named for men, and following the creeds and commandments of men, which can come under "vain worship" (Matt. 7-9)! Yes, why did Jesus establish His church? He came to "seek and save the lost" (Luke 19:10). He came not to condemn men, for they were **already** condemned; but he came rather to **save** them, (John 3:16-18). The very purpose of His coming, to be born of woman, was to "save his people from their sins", (Matt. 1:21). Again I ask, if His church is non-essential to man's salvation, and Jesus came to **save** man, His **sole** mission, **WHY DID HE BUILD A NON-ESSENTIAL ORGANIZATION TO SAVE MAN? WHEN WE ANSWER THIS TRUTHFULLY WE WILL KNOW THAT ON HIS MISSION TO SAVE MAN, JESUS ESTABLISHED NO NON-ESSENTIAL ORGANIZATION!**

"WELL, I THOUGHT THAT JESUS SAVES, AND NOT THE CHURCH."

No man misunderstands that God saved Noah and his family. **EVERYONE KNOWS THIS!** But likewise, everyone **knows** that God chose the ark as the **place** of physical salvation! **TRUE? ALL THOSE** outside the **one** ark, authorized by God, were lost! Yes, **God** saved, but God also chose the **place** where the saved were placed! To those who were saved, the **place** was just as important as the **Savior!** For God saved only **one** place! The same is true of the Lord's church today! Christ teaches that those who

By Mike Pace

"believeth and is baptized shall be saved", (Mark 16:16). Who should have been saved in Noah's day? Those in the ark! What happened to those outside the ark? They were **LOST!** Now if those who believe and are also baptized are promised salvation, what about those who do not believe and are not baptized? Note, "the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved", (Acts 2:47). Now if those who should be saved (baptized believers, Acts 2:38, 41) are "added to the Lord's church", what about those who should **not** be saved (those who refuse to obey Christ) as those also did in the days of Noah? Yes, what about those who obey not Christ? (II Thess. 1:7-9). Christ

saves, but the church of the New Testament (the Lord's church) is the **place** of salvation!

ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS ARE

"IN CHRIST", (Ephesians 3:1).

As in the days of Noah, when **all things** needed to sustain physical life, were **in** the ark; so also today, **all things** needed to sustain spiritual life are "in Christ". But the body of Christ and His church, is **ONE** and the **SAME** organization, (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18). Too many honest and sincere religious people try to separate Christ from His church, when all the time they are **ONE** and the **SAME!** **IF WE ARE IN CHRIST, WE ARE IN HIS CHURCH. BAPTISM PUTS US INTO CHRIST, HIS CHURCH!**

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Marriage "Only In The Lord"

By Glynn V. Purdy

From I Corinthians 7:39, Paul instructs the widow that, "The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord." Here and in Romans 7, as well as any other teachings **this side the cross**, marriage is presented as a **lifetime** proposition and **no** reason is given for divorce and remarriage (Matt. 5:31-32). But here it is stated that a widow is to marry, "only in the Lord"! Now two questions are asked by many here and sometimes three.

Does this apply to a widower (a man) or just for widows? Some have contended that this is **ONLY** for the woman and not for the man, **BUT**, let us see! In Mark 16:16 it is stated that "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved"; there is **NOTHING** said about she, yet all accept this to include the woman also! There is no moral law which applies to only one sex, so surely the widow and widower are included in this command!

But what does "only in the Lord" mean? Well let the Bible **SPEAK!** From

Romans 6:3-7 and Galatians 3:26-27, we learn that in order for one to be "in the Lord" (Christ), he must be "baptized into Christ". So if one marries "in the Lord", he must first have been baptized into him, and then must marry one who also has been "baptized into Christ". This is the **ONLY** way any one can get "in the Lord", so the widow must marry a baptized believer, not just any baptized believer (Acts 19:1-6) but a believer who was baptized "into the Lord"! Those in Acts 2 who believed, repented and were baptized; were "added to the church". The Lord and the church are **ONE** and the **SAME** (Col. 1:18). So to marry "in the Lord" is also to marry a member of the Lord's church (not just any church). Many are baptized to "join" some church and therefore are not baptized into the Lord, nor added to His church!

Well what about the first marriage? There is no Scripture in the New Testament which teaches a person in plain language that he must marry only a Christian the first time, but we know it is best, as

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EDITOR Mike Pace
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IS THE LORD'S CHURCH ESSENTIAL TO ONE'S SALVATION?

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ACCEPT CHRIST, BUT REJECT BAPTISM

IMPOSSIBLE! You see, Christians are "Baptized into Christ", and added "TO THE CHURCH" (Romans 6:3-5 and Acts 2:41, 47). Baptism "saves us" (I Peter 3:21), AND puts us "into" Christ (the church) at **one** and the **same** time! **IMPOSSIBLE** to be saved outside the Lord's church, for the same act that **saves** puts us **into** the Lord's body, the Lord's church!

SAVED BY THE LORD'S BLOOD

From Hebrews 10:4 we learn that it was not "possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins". This is referring to the law of Moses. But under the law of Christ it is "His blood" which redeems, or saves us. **ALL AGREE ON THIS!** Read I Peter 1:18-19 as it teaches that **ONLY** the blood of the Lord can redeem us! **But**, the **only** thing that man has access to that the blood of Christ accounted for, is the Lord's church. For Paul said that the Lord "purchased the church with his own blood"; (Acts 20:28). Now to say that the church is nonessential is to say that the blood which "purchased" the church is nonessential and that God wasted the blood of His Son by allowing Him to come into the world to save men but the only thing he left us is a non-essential church! The Lord's blood is essential to salvation, to this we all agree. But the blood is gone and all man has at his disposal is the church, so to refuse the church is to refuse the blood that bought it. A man may take a hundred dollars and purchase a suit of clothes. The hundred dollars is then gone. If he throws the suit away, he is at the same time throwing away the hundred dollars which purchased the suit. The money being gone in exchange for the suit, he must now wear the

suit to obtain any benefit from the money. The same is true of the Lord's blood. He "loved the church and gave himself for it" (Ephesians 5:25). Purchased it with "His own blood", so the blood went in exchange for the church Jesus loves. So if we receive any benefit from his blood (without which we cannot be saved) we must use the church for the God intended purpose, the "place" (like the ark) where God saves. Yes, Jesus saves, but we must be "where" **Jesus chose to save!** Those who refused to go "where" God saved during the flood were lost! Today Jesus adds "all" those who **should be saved** to the church, so the church is just as essential as the ark was as the "place" of salvation. God was the "who" and the ark was the "where" of salvation during the flood so Jesus is the "who" today and the church is the "where" of man's salvation. Why does it sound unreasonable that God would choose a "where" during the flood and again choose a "where" today? Yes, why is this unreasonable, or hard to understand, or accept?

CHRIST THE "HEAD" OF A NONESSENTIAL CHURCH?

The very fact that Christ, the only Son of God, is the "HEAD OF THE CHURCH" (Ephesians 1:22-23 and Col. 1:18) should be enough to teach any honest person that the church is essential to salvation. He came for the sole purpose to "save" man, and ended his labors by establishing a church and reigning as head over it. Is this not enough to show that the church has something to do with this "saving" he came to earth to do? If the church is non-essential then our Lord **FAILED COMPLETELY, FOR THE CHURCH IS ALL HE LEFT TO SHOW FOR HIS DEATH AND BLOOD!** Are you ready to accuse God of murdering his Son, to bring into being a worthless institution? Really now, are you?

THE CHURCH IS THE LORD'S BRIDE

Some people think that John the baptizer established a church, which of course he did not. John said that he was only a "friend" of the "bridegroom" (Christ) (John 3:29). We died to the law of Moses when Christ died on the cross fulfilling the Law and taking it out of the way, that we might now be "married to another, even Christ", (Romans 7:4; Col. 1:14).

THE CHURCH IS GOD'S "CALLED OUT"

The word "church" in the English language comes from two Greek words. The Greek preposition "ek" means out, and

the Greek word "Kaleo" means to call, hence from the two is the word "ekklasia", or "called out". Therefore the very meaning of the word "church", as related to the Lord's church, means those whom the Lord has "called out" through the Gospel called out of the world. Paul told the Colossians, speaking of God, "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness (world) and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son" (Col. 1:13). Note this was written to the "saints and faithful brethren in Christ, at Colosse" (1:2). They were "in Christ" (church), and at the same time "in the kingdom" of Christ. The **Church** and **body** of Christ is the **same**, (Eph. 1:22-23); the "house" (family) of God and the church is the **same**. (I Tim. 3:15), the "kingdom" and the **church** is the **same**. (Matt. 16:18-19); Therefore if we are "in Christ" we are "new creatures" (II Cor. 5:17); and this is what counts if we wish to be saved, (Gal. 6:15). If we are in Christ's "Body" (there is only **one** body) (Eph. 4:4), then we are in the **one** church (body and church being the same). If there is **one** body and the body is the church, then there is only **one** church which the Lord purchased, which is His bride.

THE CHURCH AND THE KINGDOM IS THE SAME ORGANIZATION

This we have just shown from the scripture, so **that** being the case, the church, or kingdom, is essential to salvation because it is the "kingdom" which Jesus will deliver to the Father. "Then cometh the end, when He (Jesus) shall have delivered the kingdom to God, even the Father: when he shall have put down all rule, and all authority and power", (I Cor. 15:24). Here Paul is speaking after death is destroyed and the world is destroyed, showing that the kingdom over which Jesus has reigned as head, will then be delivered to the Father. This is **all** that Jesus will deliver to the Father, therefore if we are saved we must be **IN** the kingdom, the body, the family, the church, which refer to the same "called out of God". Kingdom, with Christ as King and Christians are subjects; Body, with Christ the Head and Christians as members like unto the physical body with each member subject to the head; Family, with God the Father, and Christians as children; Church, with Christians being "called out" by God and "saved" by Christ. **UNLESS THEN YOU HAVE BELIEVED, REPENTED, CONFESSED JESUS AND BEEN BURIED BY BAPTISM INTO THE KINGDOM. YOU HAVE NO HOPE OF BEING DELIVERED TO THE**

MISTAKES TO BE AVOIDED

By Ordell Heavin

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.” (Rom. 15:4). We should profit from the miscues from the past, but sadly, history often repeats itself because folks learn slowly. It is truly wonderful, therefore, that Jesus Christ set a noble, perfect example for us to follow that helps us escape the pit falls of the past. Let us notice some examples we ought to detour on the road of life.

1. Mistakes of Adam and Eve. The basic mistake of Adam and Eve was to choose the easy route instead of the right one. But that decision was extremely costly as it brought sin and death into the world. (Rom. 5:12) “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin: and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” Sin separated them from God. Sin still separates man from God. “Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that He will not hear. (Isa. 59:1-2) The very same things occur often in our own day. Christ died that we could overcome sin through obedience. The devil goes about as a roaring lion deceiving many. Both have cast a vote for your soul. Man has in his power the deciding vote. What will it be? Do you want eternal rest or eternal damnation? What would you give in exchange for your soul? Scores of people are selling out for the filth of this world. Why? (II Thess. 2:10-12) It pays in the long run to diligently “go with God” even

FATHER BY THE SON, JESUS CHRIST!

THE CHURCH IS ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION BECAUSE IT IS “CLEANSED” BY JESUS

Man must be cleansed from sin, yet the church is the only thing that Christ (our only Savior) has **promised** to cleanse! He will “cleanse” the church and “sanctify” it “with washing of water (baptism GVP) and the word”. When it is washed, cleansed, and sanctified then He will “present it to himself a glorious church (not churches), not having spot, or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish” (Eph. 5:26-27). So if you are ever cleansed, sanctified, without spot or blemish, or if you are ever presented to Christ, as his bride, you **MUST** be IN the LORD’S CHURCH!

if the challenge is greater (I Cor. 15:58) “Therefore my beloved brethern, be ye steadfast, unmoveable always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

2. Mistake of Ahab. Ahab was a king who coveted another man’s possessions. (I Kings 21). The outcome of these passions was the murder of Nabath and the acquiring of a beautiful vineyard. But Ahab did not live long enough to enjoy the treasure he falsely obtained. In I Kings 22 we read of the dogs licking up royal blood by the pool of Samaria, the blood of Ahab who thought he could fool God. But look at Galatians 6:7 “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” Many live and act as if they can fool the creator, but they are sadly mistaken. “Be sure your sins will find you out.” (Num. 32:23).

3. Mistake of Robbing God. It is difficult to imagine people stealing from God, but some did. “Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, wherein have we robbed thee?” (Mal. 3:8). When folks act so unwisely, they actually steal from themselves the abundant blessing God wants them to have. When we fail to give cheerfully and liberally to the cause of the Savior, we remove much of the joy and relationship with the one who gave all for us. (II Cor. 9:6-11) (I Cor. 16:1-2). “Lay by in store as we have prospered.” (Matt. 10:8) “Freely ye have received, freely give.” (Acts 20:35) “It is more blessed to give than receive.” (Eph. 5:2) “Give of ourselves.” “Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.” (II Cor. 9:15). Conversely our generous and purposeful giving opens up as it were the windows of heaven and hedges us about with the providence of God and makes each day a closer step into the heart of Jesus who gave Himself for our sins. (Gal. 1:4).

4. Mistake of Martha. When the Lord came to the house of Mary and Martha, Mary “sat at Jesus’ feet and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to Him and said, Lord dost thou not care that my sister left me to serve alone? Bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her. Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things; But one thing is needful and Mary hath

chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.” (Luke 10:40-42) This event is extremely pertinent to our daily conduct. It deals not only with overt shame and wickedness, it actually calls for a discerning, perceptive analysis. The verse in this exciting section hits at our own weakness. Do we put our approval on things that are scriptural, or do we too often decide on matters that are second best. (Phillipians 1:10) “That ye may prove things that are excellent, that ye may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ.” Look at II Timothy 3:4, “Are we heady, high minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.” Is our life geared to the attitude that defiantly says, “What is wrong with it?” Really faithful Christians ask instead: “Is this the best thing I can do to glorify God?” There will be a lot of people in torment who wasted their earthly moments wandering around in futility of lesser things who could have known the beauty of holiness.

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We would like to again say that we **do not** solicit contributions for this paper, however, if you would desire to contribute, we would be most grateful to you.

Thanking You in Advance,
Mike Pace, Editor

MARRIAGES "ONLY IN THE LORD"

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there are Scriptures which imply this very strongly! In II Cor. 6:14-18 a principle of God's is violated when a person "in the Lord" marries "outside" the Lord. "Be ye not unqually yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness; And what communion hath light with darkness; And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?" Unequally yoked of course means to enter into a relationship where the unbeliever (he that is outside the Lord) (even the devils believe, James 2:19) influences, or controls God's child! I know of no relationship where one who is not God's child has a better opportunity to influence and control a Christian than in the marriage relationship! Yes "evil companions corrupt good morals" (I Cor. 15:33).

Marriage is hard at the best! Yes, there are so many things which confront those who are married, to try their faith, even when both are "in the Lord", but there are so very many more where one is not in the Lord! Often the children are the victims, torn betwen loyalty for the Christian and the non-Christian. To those who read this, and one is not a Christian, or has been a Christian and fallen away under the Devil's blows, may I ask, "What about your children"? Yes, I know you love them, you feed them well, clothe them good, and are very concerned about their education and friends, and often furnish them a car so they can ride to the church building. **BUT IF THE CHILD LOSES HIS SOUL, HOW WILL YOU BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN YOUR LOVE FOR HIM THEN???**

How to Become a Christian

The most important question ever asked is: "What must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30). Then, the **HOW** becomes equally as important. Notice the step by step process. First, we must have faith in the Author and Finisher of our faith, Jesus Christ. (Heb. 12:2). This faith comes by the hearing of the word of God. (Rom. 10:17). "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Heb. 11:6). With the belief and trust that Jesus is the Redeemer, we must repent of sins. "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent." (Acts 17:30). In repentance, we turn from sin, **STOP** serving Satan and **START** serving the Lord. (Matt. 3:8, Luke 13:

3). With this new attitude we are ready to confess our faith, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Rom. 10:9-10). Read Matthew 10:32-33. Acknowledging our faith, repentance and confession, the last step into Christ is baptism. "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (Gal. 3:27). Read Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38. Now that our past sins have been forgiven, the Lord has added us to His church and we are Christians. (Acts 2:47; Acts 11:26).

BECOME A CHRISTIAN

YOUR RELIGION
Is it from God or man?

GOD TEACHES

- There is ONE faith (Eph. 4:4)
- There is ONE body (Eph. 4:4, which is the church (Eph. 1:22-23).
- Called in ONE body (Col. 3:15).
- Speak the SAME thing (I Cor. 1:10).
- Seek first the KINGDOM of God (Matthew 6:33).
- We are saved IN the church (Eph. 5: 25-26; Colossians 1:13-14).
- "He that believeth and is baptized shall be SAVED . . ." (Mark 16:15-16).
- Confess CHRIST (Romans 10:9-10).

MAN TEACHES

- There are MANY faiths.
- There are MANY churches.
- Called in MANY churches.
- Speak ANYTHING you want to believe.
- Seek your DENOMINATION first.
- Saved OUT of the Church.
- He that believeth is saved and MAY be baptized if he desires.
- Confess FEELINGS.

"There is a way that seemeth right unto man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" Proverbs 14:12).

You are always welcome at the CHURCHES OF CHRIST