Christ, the church and salvation are inseparable!

Those who are in Christ are in the church - His Kingdom!

1Co 6:9-11 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, (10) nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. (11) And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Matt 16:18 "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

Christ said He would build <u>His</u> <u>church</u>.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter unlocked the kingdom with a powerful sermon to which 3,000 responded at the invitation.

Act 2:36-38 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." (37) Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" (38) And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Peter summarized his lesson by telling the assembled group that they had crucified the Lord of glory.

When he accused them of this terrible sin, of which they knew they were guilty, they had a soul rending moment. They cried out! <u>What shall we do?</u> Peter told them what they needed to do to be relieved of that sin. Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins

Receiving pardon for their sins was assured, but the fulfillment of God's prophecy was also accomplished. Matt 1:21 "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

When they were baptized, the Lord added them!

To what?

To the church!

Acts 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. Acts 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

To what did he add them? – To HIS CHURCH Gal 3:27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. As Luke recounts the story of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5, he talks about THE CHURCH! - and those who were not in the church.

From the day of Pentecost onward, the church is spoken of as being in existence.

Acts 5:11 And great fear came over the whole church , and over all who heard of these things.

Acts 20:17 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church ... 28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

Jesus had purchased <u>the church</u> with his blood. He added those to it who believed he was the Christ, turned from their sins and who were baptized.

If Jesus adds those who are believe and are baptized to <u>His</u> church, then there are no saved people in any other church! Jesus has all the saved in HIS **CHURCH!**

When we think about the saved, we say they have received salvation. Salvation from what? - from their sins! What sins? Those they have committed and have turned away from.

1 Cor 6:9-11Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

What if they haven't turned from their sin? What if they haven't been baptized as believers for the remission of their sin? What if they thought they could be saved in some other church?

What have they failed to do? They have failed to follow <u>God's</u> <u>Word!</u>

Luke 6:46 " Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?

2 Peter 2:1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

These destructive heresies – include any false way – not just denying the Master! 1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

What is fellowship? Sharing - partnership

Can we be his sons and not walk in his way? Rev 3:4 'But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

When we are "clothed with Christ" we have a white garment – one he has put on us. When we soil the garment, we walk in darkness – we do not share with Him.

When we are baptized as believing, repentant souls, we are justified from our past sins.

Where do we find ourselves when we have failed to recognize the church of our Lord.

Jesus said He purchased His church with His blood. His blood paid for our sins. Jesus didn't pay the way into some man's church. People will say, "oh yes, we're Christians, but we're - Christians. (You fill in the blank with some other man's or church's name.)

Following Christ and doing His will makes one a Christian. Following some man's catechism or creedbook will not put you into Christ. It may make you a member of some man's church but not of Christ's church.

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Where do you stand today? Were you baptized for the remission of your sins or did you believe that your salvation occurred prior to your baptism? Were you sprinkled as a child and when you grew up you believed. That didn't put you into Christ's church! Did you say the sinner's prayer to receive your salvation and then decide that you would be baptized some time later? That didn't put you into Christ's church! Acts 22:16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.' Acts 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.