



Where Is Salvation?

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In our current religious world, if we were to ask the question, “What must I do to be saved?” we would receive numerous different answers. However, any answer given by man only matters as it is according to what God has said in His Word. God has clearly set out what we must do to be saved and no man has the right or authority to change God’s requirements (Revelation 22:18-19). God is the source of our salvation (Hebrews 5:9). With this in mind, let us consider the question, “Where did God place salvation?”

Paul wrote to Timothy, “Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory” (II Timothy 2:10). Two times in the New Testament we read that we are baptized into Christ (we must first get into Christ before we can be in Christ). The first passage is Romans 6:3-4, where Paul wrote, “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” (Note: it was in His death that Jesus shed His blood; it is His blood that washes away sins; thus, it is only in baptism that we contact His blood). The second passage is Galatians 3:27, where Paul further explains how we become children of God (see verse 26), when he wrote, “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” Nowhere in the Bible will one find that one believes into Christ.

Salvation is in Christ and we get into Christ through obeying God’s command to be baptized. Now, notice, “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body...” (I Corinthians 12:13). What is the body? Paul answers this in Ephesians 1:22-23, “And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body...”

When a person is baptized, they are baptized into Christ, where salvation is; however, they are also baptized into His body, the church. Those on the Day of Pentecost, when they “gladly received his word, were baptized” (Acts 2:41), then in verse 47, “...And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved” (New King James Version). What church was this? It was not one that wore a man’s name; it was the church that belongs to Christ – the church He purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28). Salvation is in Christ; when we are baptized into Christ, we are added to His church.

If you would like to know more about the commandments of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that will wash away your sins and put you into the church that belongs to Him, or if you would like to enroll in a correspondence course by mail (no cost or obligation to you), please return this coupon to: Back To The Bible; 221 Barnett Street; West Jefferson, NC 28694 or visit us online at: www.wjchurchofchrist.org.

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