

The foundation on which the Lord's one church would be built was the fact that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God [Matthew 16:16]. Jesus' church was established on the Day of Pentecost following His crucifixion and resurrection from the dead [Acts 2:1-47]. There were approximately 3,000 souls saved and added to the church on its very first day of existence [Acts 2:41]!

Paul says there is only one church. He defines the church as Jesus' body [Ephesians 1:22-23] and then declares that there is only one body [Ephesians 4:4; Colossians 1:17-25; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14]. Therefore **there is only one true church** [Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:4; Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 2:11-22]. **Anyone that teaches the existence of more than one church is either ignorant of the Scripture's plain teachings on this subject, or is a spreader of false doctrine.** To be a member of any church other than the church Jesus built, is to be a member of a man-made institution, instead of the *one* blood-bought institution Jesus died for. Jesus says that any plant that God did not plant "*shall be rooted up*" [Matthew 15:13-14].

Salvation is only for those who are members of God's household or church—not for those who are members of any man-man institution, organization, or denomination. **Who then will be saved?** Only those people that have Jesus' blood covering their sins [Romans 5:8-9; Ephesians 2:13]. **Without Jesus' sacrifice and His cleansing blood, we do not have any hope of entering the gates of heaven.** No man or woman can earn their salvation by doing good works, and without God's never-ending grace, no one could be saved [Ephesians 2:8-9].

A very important question then arises: **How does one have their sins removed, get added to the Lord's church, and become saved?** If you ask ten different preachers from different religious groups, you will very likely get ten different answers. Which of these, if any, have the right answer? How can you know? As previously discussed, the only way you can know who is preaching the true gospel message is for *you* to **study God's Word for yourself**. See for yourself who is accurately proclaiming the gospel or good news of Jesus Christ.

One thing we can know for sure is this: **anyone who does not obey the gospel according to God's Word**

will "*pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power...*" [2 Thessalonians 1:6-10]. We can *only* enter heaven if we obey Jesus' gospel because the gospel is "*the power of God for salvation*" [Romans 1:16]. **Man's doctrine will save no one!** Jesus said "*If you love me, you will keep my commandments*" [John 14:15; Cf. 1 John. 2:3-6].

After Jesus' resurrection, in what many term the "**Great Commission**", Jesus told His apostles the saving message of the gospel they were to teach [see Matthew 18:18-20]. Jesus even described man's two potential responses to the gospel [Mark 16:15-16]. The following items are part of this "**GOSPEL**" [Romans 1:16] message that **leads to SALVATION** in Christ Jesus the Lord:

1. After **hearing** the gospel message (Romans 10:17; Galatians 3:2), you must **believe** that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God. (John 3:16; Hebrews 11:6; Acts 8:37; 1 Peter 1:5-9)
2. **Repent** of your sins, which includes a change of mind, heart and actions. (Acts 17:30-31; Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; 2 Corinthians 7:10)
3. **Confess** the name of Jesus Christ before men. (Romans 10:9; Matthew 10:32-33)
4. Be **immersed in water** (i.e. baptized) *in order to* receive the forgiveness [remission] of your sins (Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21). It is not because your sins are *already* forgiven as most churches teach.
5. Live a **new life** in *and* for Christ Jesus. (Romans 6:4; Matthew 10:22; Revelation 2:10)

Sadly, Over 95% of churches in "Christendom" teach a totally different way for a person to be saved than Jesus' "Great Commission" and the items listed above. Many hundreds of churches have been surveyed in the Dallas and Fort Worth Texas area on how one becomes saved. (*The survey results are available upon request.*) Most churches teach repeating some form of "**the sinners prayer**" in order to become a child of God. If you believe you were saved by saying a prayer, **you are lovingly challenged to do the following things:**

- Find any **command** in the New Testament in which we are commanded to repeat a prayer in order to be saved.

- Find any **example** of any person in the New Testament who said a "sinners prayer" in order to be saved.

Friend, if there is no command and no example of *anyone* praying a prayer in order to be saved—and their isn't—then **saying a prayer must be man's doctrine and thus does not result in anyone being saved.** The *absence* of such command or example reveals it's man-made origin [Mark 7:1-13; 1 Timothy 6:3-10]. If man was supposed to say some type of prayer to be saved, God would have instructed us to do so in His word—but He didn't. [Please read John 8:47 and John 12:48]

No man-made religion has ever saved anyone! God holds the distinction of having the patent on the one and only Truth. It is man's job to spread that Truth to all the world. Please recall what happens to anyone (including an apostle of Christ or an angel from heaven) who preaches a gospel contrary to that what is written in God's Word—they are condemned to hell for eternity [Galatians 1:6-10]! They are said to be "distort[ing]" or "pervert[ing]" the gospel of Christ.

Anyone who thinks they are saved by a gospel different than what is written in the Scriptures is going to be sadly mistaken on judgment day. For your eternal sake, if you have not obeyed the *one and only gospel* plan of salvation outlined earlier, please call us today so we can assist you in studying God's Word for yourself. We will not include any of man's opinions, as we only teach directly from the Scriptures. Please contact us today if you would like to have a Bible study or enroll in a free Bible correspondence course.

Knowledge plus obedience to the one and only gospel message will truly set you free. Live a faithful Christian life and you will spend your eternity in the presence of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit! (John 8:31-32)



He did it just for you...



Do you really care?

The Bible says this concerning Jesus:

"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12).

Jesus wants all men to be saved so much that He died a horrible death on a cross (1 Peter 2:21-24). Even though Jesus died so all men *could* be saved, He says that *most* men will be lost (Matthew 7:13-14).

We will all spend eternity somewhere – where will you spend your eternity?