

Answering The Religious Errors Of Our Family, Friends, and Neighbors 1

“There Are Saved People In All Churches!”

Lesson 30

INTRO:

- A. This statement can also be asked sometimes in the form of a question: "Aren't there saved people in all churches?"
 - 1. More often than not, if it is asked in the form of a question there is usually another question that immediately follows: "Why do you believe you are the only ones who will be saved?"
- B. We could answer:
 - 1. "The Bible plainly teaches there is only one church." or...
 - 2. "We believe that only those who are members of the N.T church will be saved."
- C. For those people who would insist on a "yes" or "no" answer, how can a satisfactory answer be given when we are not in agreement on what the church is?

I. DO THE SCRIPTURES TEACH “THERE ARE SAVED PEOPLE IN ALL CHURCHES”?

- A. It cannot be established by the Scriptures that there are save people in all churches!
 - 1. We would be quick to believe it if it were taught in God’s Word.
 - a. Instead, we are taught -- **1 John 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:21**
- B. But some ask, "What about **John 15**? Doesn't it teach that Christ is the vine and the various churches are the branches?"
 - 1. In **John 15**, the individual disciples are the branches, not churches. **vs. 5-6**
- C. Some say, "The church is the great mystical body that includes all churches. All churches make up the body of Christ!"
 - 1. However, the N.T. clearly shows there was only one church. **Ephesians 4:4; 1:22-23**
 - 2. Jesus established only one church. **Matthew 16:18**
 - a. People became members by obeying the gospel. Those who obeyed became a member in the body of the saved. **(Acts 2:41,47)**
- D. Questions:
 - 1. What denominations did the early Christians belong to?
 - a. **THERE WERE NONE!**
 - 2. Can one be a Christian today without being a member of any denomination?
 - a. **IF SO, THEY ARE NOT NEEDED!**
 - 3. Does the Bible require a Christian to join a denomination?
 - a. **IF SO, WHICH ONE?**

II. ARE THERE SAVED PEOPLE IN ALL CHURCHES?

YES, IF THEY HAVE ALL DONE THE SAME THING TO BE A SAVED INDIVIDUAL!

NO, IF THEY HAVE ALL DONE DIFFERENT THINGS TO BE A SAVED INDIVIDUAL!

A. Who is a saved person? The Bible teaches it is the person who has:

1. Believed, **John 8:24**
2. Repented, **Acts 17:30**
3. Confessed, **Matthew 10:32**
4. Baptized. **Mark 16:16**
 - a. This is the only way to be saved as ordained in the Scriptures.

B. Many have never obeyed these simple steps of the gospel and thus are **NOT SAVED!**

1. For example, some have been sprinkled as infants. An infant can't believe, can't repent (has no sins to repent of), can't confess; therefore is not a candidate for baptism.
2. Some have believed they were saved at the point of faith. They are baptized, but it is only to symbolizes that they are already saved.

C. We are aware of the fact that it is possible for one to become a Christian and then join a denomination.

1. But as long as one is in a group that holds to or teachers error, they are associated with error and are having fellowship with error.
2 John 9-11

III. THERE ARE NOT SAVED PEOPLE IN ALL CHURCHES BECAUSE NOT ALL CHURCHES ARE IDENTICAL TO THE N.T. CHURCH AND THEREFORE CANNOT BE THE N.T. CHURCH!

A. To be a N.T. church, we must be identical to the one in the N.T.

1. A study of secular history shows different churches resulted in departures from the teaching and practices of the N.T. church.
 - a. Example, in organization. **Acts 20:29-30**
 - 1) Once corrupted, they continue down through the centuries.
2. There are so many corruptions today that error is being taught on nearly every doctrine and principle taught in the N.T.!
 - a. **ALL** the different churches of our day would be abolished if people would get back to the teaching and practice of the N.T.

IV. THERE ARE NOT SAVED PEOPLE IN ALL CHURCHES BECAUSE ALL CHURCHES NOT ARE IDENTICAL BECAUSE THEY ALL CONTRADICT ONE ANOTHER.

A. Different churches makes God the Author of confusion. **1 Corinthians 14:33**

1. It would mean that God saves people who believe and practice different doctrines.

a. Example: "Peter was a pope".

1) A Catholic book, page 82 says, "Any church that does not recognize Peter as its foundation stone is not the Church of Christ..." (**The Faith of Our Fathers**, by James Gibbons, p. 82)

b. All other churches say, "Peter was not a pope."

2. Our question: Does God teach both? Does God accept both? Does God sanction a lie?

B. Distinguishing doctrines is what makes the various churches.

1. That churches plainly contradict one another no one can deny.

a. Example: Most Methodist churches teach that sprinkling is baptism; most Baptist churches fervently deny it.

1) Jehovah's Witnesses teach there is no hell; Presbyterian churches rigidly affirm there is one.

2. What if you went into a store and you found an unmarked coat, ask a clerk the price, and she says, \$59. You ask another clerk and she says, \$99. Then you go to the manager and she says, "Just pay the price of your choice because one price is as good as another."

a. Such foolishness would not work in the financial world.

1) That store would not stay in business very long!

3. In the religious world, if you like drinking liquor, living in adultery, being a homosexual, practicing witchcraft, etc., etc., just choose the church of your choice!

4. However, if want to please God, follow His doctrine. **2 John 9; Matthew 15:9**

V. THE SCRIPTURES CONDEMN DIVISION WHILE THE WORLD APPROVES OF IT!

A. Division is condemned in the Scriptures.

1. There is to be no schism in the body. **1 Corinthians 12:25**

2. Christ is not divided. **1 Corinthians 1:10-13**

3. It's going against the prayer of Christ. **John 17:20-21**

4. Those who cause division are to be marked and rejected. **Romans 16:17; Titus 3:10**

Answering The Religious Errors Of Our Family, Friends, and Neighbors 4
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Lesson 30

- B. Thus, all separate and distinct bodies are clearly and strongly condemned in the N.T.
 - 1. The entire denominational system is based upon perversions of the Word of God which have led to divisions.
 - 2. Christians are to oppose division and earnestly contend for the purity of the faith. **Jude 3; Titus 1:13-14**
 - a. We, as Paul, need to be set for the defense of the gospel.
Philippines 1:17
 - b. We teach and encourage people to come out of denominations, and simply be N.T. Christians.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Five reasons have been given as to why there are not saved people in all churches.
 - 1. It cannot be established by the Scriptures.
 - 2. They haven't been saved to start with.
 - 3. Their churches are not identical to the N.T. church.
 - 4. Their churches contradict one another.
 - 5. It would approve division.
- B. Anytime one obeys the gospel, he becomes exactly what people were in the N.T., a saved individual, a Christian, a member of the body or church of Christ.
 - 1. They must then work and worship with other Christians under the direction of God's Word.
 - 2. To do something other than this is to cause division (Denominationalism), and is to transgress God's Word, and thus cannot be pleasing to God.