

# The Church

## God's Protection for the Christian

**Col 2:8-10** Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

There are some philosophies that if you believe them they will rob you of some of the blessings that are in Christ. Satan wants to rob you of what you have in Christ.

When only 1% of America is in church on Sunday night - our philosophy on church is wrong.

**CHURCH** - "Ecclesia" - A called out assembly.

Two systems in the Bible:

-The church

-The world

A church is a called out assembly of people from the world who have been saved and baptized.

SYNAGOGUE-----Church-----New Testament Church

### I. Let Us Not Forsake the Assembling or "Churching" of Ourselves Together

A. **Heb 10:24-25** - And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

25) Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

B. There is no invisible church.

C. The word "church" means a local assembly of believers.

D. Illus: A man said, "I live in the house of God and that's why I don't go to church."

**Acts 2:47** Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

**Acts 5:11-14** And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.

13 And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.

14 And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)

Just because some one is saved does not necessarily mean that they are added to the Church. You do not become a member of the Church when you get saved.

Here in these verses people were saved but nobody joined the Church.

You can be added to the Lord without being added to the Church.

**Acts 11:21-26** And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.

22 Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.

23 Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

24 For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.

25 Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul:

26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

## II. The Local, Called-Out Assembly of Believers

**Acts 2:47** - Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

A. One hundred and fourteen times, the reference is to the local, called-out assembly of believers.

**Acts 8:3** - As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.

**Acts 9:31** - Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

**Acts 11:26** - And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

**Acts 12:1** - Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.

**Acts 13:1** - Now there were in the church that was at Antioch

certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

**Rom. 16:5** - Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my wellbeloved Epaphroditus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.

**Rom 16:16** - Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.

**Rom 16:23** - Gaius mine host, and of the whole church, saluteth you. Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother.

**1 Cor 16:1** - Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.

L. The doctrine of the "Invisible Church" relieves duty and responsibility.

M. The doctrine of the "Invisible Church" salves the conscience of one who listens to the TV and radio on Sunday morning, Sunday night and Wednesday night instead of going to church.

## III. Every Local, N.T., Baptist Church Is A Body of Christ

A. **Eph 1:23** - Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

B. **Col 1:18** - And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead: that in all things he might have the preeminence.

This is the Verse they always use to defend their position.

**1 Cor 12:12-14** For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

14 For the body is not one member, but many.

The Book of Corinthians was written to who?

The Church at Corinth.

When you got saved you became God's child and you entered God's Family but you did not become a member of the Church until you walked the Isle made your salvation public and were baptized.

**Family or Church**.....They are not the same thing. John 1:12, Rom 8:16, Gal 3:26

#### IV. A True Church Has to Meet Some Qualifications

##### A. A soul winning church

1. **Rev 1:13-16** - *And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. 14) His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; 15) And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. 16) And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.*
2. **Rev 1:20** - *The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.*
3. **Rev 2:1** - *Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;*
4. **Rev 2:5** - *Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*
5. Jesus said, "You do the first works or I will remove your charter."
  - a. **John 1:40-41** - *One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41) He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.*
  - b. **John 1:44-45** - *Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45) Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.*
  - c. The "first works" are getting people saved.
  - d. It's like having a franchise of KFC. You can cook chicken any way you want to, but if you want to bear the name KFC, you will do it their way.
  - e. If a church isn't interested in getting people out of hell, it isn't a real church.

##### B. A King James Bible church

1. **Ps 11:3** - *If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?*
2. There has to be a foundation for truth.  
**1 Tim 3:15** *But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*
3. **John 1:1** - *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*  
**Isa 8:20** - *To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.*
4. **Heb 4:12** - *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*
5. You can only know the Living Word as you read the Written Word.

##### C. A Baptist church

1. **Matt 3:1** - *In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,*
2. **Matt 11:11** - *Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.*
3. John the Baptist was called a Baptist by God because he baptized.
4. John the Baptist was a Baptist preacher.
5. Jesus was baptized by a Baptist preacher.
6. Jesus' disciples were baptized by a Baptist preacher.

##### D. An autonomous church

1. **Rev 2:6** - *But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*
2. **Rev 2:15** - *So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.*
  - a. "Nico" - to rule.
  - b. "Laity" - the people.
  - c. The word "Nicolaitan" deals with an outside force controlling the church.
  - d. The church is supposed to be totally self-operating.

- e. Any church tied with a convention is not a New Testament Church - it is only a church.
- f. It amazes me how many christians who come from Independent Baptist Churches join Southern Baptist Churches when they move.

#### **IV. Why It Is Important To Go To Church**

A. **Matt. 16:18** - *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

- 1. "Gates" refers to the authorities of a city.
- 2. God has promised that the "gates" or authorities of Hell would not prevail against the church.
- 3. When a person says, "I won't go to church", he is refusing God's protection against Satanic destruction.

B. **1 Timothy 3:15** *But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, **the pillar and ground of the truth.***

- 1. Every Christian who does not get involved in the Local New Testament Church always ends up in some degree getting mixed up in error. A christian who does not have a church home is very vulnerable to false teaching.

C. **Hag 1:1-11** - *In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying, 2) Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD's house should be built. 3) Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying, 4) Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste? 5) Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. 6) Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes. 7) Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. 8) Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD. 9) Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house. 10) Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit. 11) And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon that which the ground bringeth forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon all the labour of the hands.*

- God says you have no satisfaction because you have not made His house your priority.

D. **2 Chr 27:1-2** - *Jotham was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Jerushah, the daughter of Zadok. 2) And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Uzziah did: howbeit he entered not into the temple of the LORD. And the people did yet corruptly.*

- 1. Jotham thought he was strong enough to stay out of church.
- 2. His decision destroyed those that looked to him for an example.

**Ps 73:1-28** *Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart.*

- 2 *But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped.*
- 3 *For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.*
- 4 *For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm.*
- 5 *They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men.*
- 6 *Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment.*
- 7 *Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish.*
- 8 *They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily.*
- 9 *They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.*
- 10 *Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them.*
- 11 *And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High?*
- 12 *Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches.*
- 13 *Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency.*
- 14 *For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning.*
- 15 *If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children.*
- 16 *When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me;*
- 17 **Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.**
- 18 *Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction.*
- 19 *How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.*
- 20 *As a dream when one awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image.*
- 21 *Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins.*
- 22 *So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee.*
- 23 *Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand.*
- 24 *Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.*

25 *Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.*  
26 *My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.*  
27 *For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee.*  
28 *But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.*

You will get discouraged if you don't go to church.