

The Saved Are in the Church

The apostle Paul declared in Eph. 5:23, "For the husband is the head of the wife, and Christ also is the head of the church, *being* himself the saviour of the body." Everyone needs to understand this aspect of the church. Paul states several important truths.

First, Jesus Christ is our saviour (Mt 1:21; John 1:29; Luke 19:10). Christ saves us from the guilt, the practice, and the condemnation of sin (Heb. 9:22; Rom. 8:10; 1 Pet. 2:21).

Second, salvation is in Christ. The apostle Peter said, "And in none other is there salvation: for neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, wherein we must be saved (Acts 4:12)." John wrote, "that whosoever believeth may in him have eternal life (John 3:15)." Paul said, "Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sake, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory (2 Tim 2:10)." Peter, John, and Paul agree as one that salvation is in Christ. They all use the preposition *in* giving the specific location of salvation. If salvation is in Christ, the important question is how do we get *in* Christ? Two passages deal simply and specifically with this point, Rom. 6:3-4 and Gal. 6:23-24. These show clearly and conclusively that one is baptized into Christ. Those in Christ are saved; the saved are those in Christ.

Third, the saved are in his body, the church. Paul wrote, "Christ also is the head of the church, *being* himself the saviour of the body (Eph 5:23)." Christ, then, is saviour of the body and the body is the church. That the body and the church are one and the same is clearly taught: "He put all things in subjection under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that fills all in all (Eph 1:22-23)." All the saved are in his body, the church. His body, the church are all the saved. How do we get into to the church, the body of the saved? Paul answers this question in a most direct way, "For in one Spirit were we all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether bond or free; and were all made to drink of one Spirit (1 Cor 12:13)."

The clear Bible teaching is that the saved are in the church and the saved are in Christ. We cannot find salvation outside Christ or outside his body, the church. The same baptism that puts us in Christ also put us in his body, the church. The inclusive steps to obedience—faith, repentance, confession, and baptism—culminate with the Lord adding the saved to his church: "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved (Acts 2:47-3:1 KJV)."