

In What Church Should I Worship?

by

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John 14:1-6

John 14:1-6, *“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”*

If we want the promises made here by Christ to apply to us, we need to decide in what church to worship. Or, in what church do I have the best chance to go to heaven? In the world today, there are all sorts of thoughts on how to choose a church. If you ask someone the reason why they attend the church of “their choice” you will get many interesting answers. Ask yourself, “Why am I here? Why go to any church at all?” Some people say: “I can worship God just as well out in nature.” “This church feels right for me.” “I like the band.” “My parents worshipped here.” “It is casual; I can wear what I want.” “My family will go with me if I go here.” One church in Lubbock, TX, has a very interesting sign out in front: “Ecclesia: church without religion.” The definition of church is: “Belief in or desire to worship a being greater than ourselves.” I guess that this church is more like some sort of social club. What would your answer be? What is the correct answer? In what church can I be saved? If we accept the Bible as God’s inspired word, perhaps we should ask Jesus, “In what church should I worship?” What is Christ’s answer?

John 14:6, *“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”*

Jesus is the only way!

Matt. 16:13-18, *“When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. 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.”*

Key thoughts

My church indicates that there will be other churches. The gates of hell will not prevail against it indicates that the gates of hell will prevail against other churches.

Satan tempts Christ: Matt. 4:8-10 is the most familiar passage. Luke 4:5-8 is similar, but with an interesting difference.

Luke 4:5-8, *“And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”*

It is not realistic to think that any of us can have our own physical kingdoms. Spiritual kingdoms, however, are quite a different matter. The devil can give that power to anyone. Wow! I can start my own church, and may have my own church rules! I can say the same thing that Jesus said, “I will build my church”. But then what about the gates of hell? Very important question, “Will the gates of hell prevail against the church that I have chosen for my family, my children?”

Is the church that you attend mentioned in the Bible?

Rom. 16:1-16 mentions several churches and verse 16 summarizes: *“Salute one another with an holy kiss. The **churches of Christ** salute you.”*

Matt. 18:20, *“For where two or three are gathered together **in my name**, there am I in the midst of them.”* Pretty great to have Him in our midst! By His authority! By whose authority are you assembled?

Christ’s church is not a social club, a political organization, or a place to drop off your children so that you can do whatever you want to do.

What exactly is Christ’s church?

It is the place in which believers worship God.

John 4:23-24, *“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the **true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth:** for the*

Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

It is not a physical building. It is Christ’s spiritual kingdom and we must be inside of it to be saved. To enter Christ’s kingdom we must be born into it.

John 3:3-5, “*Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.** Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*”

Have you been baptized (born) into the body of Christ?

Gal. 3:27-29, “*For as many of you as have been **baptized into Christ have put on Christ.** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: **for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.** And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.*”

Eph. 1:19-23, “*And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 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, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.*”

Christ is the only way to the Father.

John 14:6, “*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*”

John 10:1, “*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a **thief and a robber.***”

Acts 4:12, “*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*”

However, men will still try to find some other way. Jesus calls such men thieves and robbers.

Matt. 7:13-23, “*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and **few there be that find it.** Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of*

thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but **he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven**. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

Jesus is clearly stating the broad way is filled with many other churches that are unrecognized by the Lord; filled with honest people who are led by wolves in sheep’s clothing, who will be surprised when Christ says, “Depart, I never knew you.” He only recognizes those that are in **His Body**.

2 Tim. 2:19, “Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his...”

The church in which I should worship teaches only the commandments of Christ.

Mark 7:6-7, “He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”

Matt. 28:18-20, “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to **observe all things** whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

Christ’s church remembers His sacrifice every first day of the week.

Acts 20:7, “And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them...”

John 6:53, “Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.”

One of the few times that Christ spoke a direct command to us is to remember His death in the communion.

Luke 22:19, “...this do in remembrance of me.”

In 1 Cor. 11 Paul reminds us not to forget this sacrifice; verse 24, “...Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.”

If we don't observe this faithfully, Paul tells us in verse 30 that we become weak and sick spiritually, and eventually fall asleep. This observance was critical to Christ and to Paul, and yet is treated lightly in many churches and observed not at all by others. How about the church in which you worship?

Will the church in which you worship be the one Christ delivers up to the Father when He comes again?

Now, our church choice starts to get more serious. It seems it should no longer be made lightly.

1 Cor. 15:24, *"Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father..."*

Now it becomes really important to be in the right church instead of having our own or being in another church not authorized by Christ. The reasons for being there seem pretty insignificant. Satan's promise to allow us to worship in whatever way we want, in whatever church we want, seems much less desirable. Being in Christ's church is everything.

Christ poses an interesting question in Luke 6:46, *"And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"* What is your answer?

Christ's answer is found in the rest of this passage. Verse 47-49, *"Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great."*

We risk everything and everyone that is precious to us when we worship in a church that is not built by Christ.

