

must do to be saved. Jesus says, *“He that believes and is baptized shall be saved”* (Mark 16:16).

Ron Boatwright (deceased)



We are now meeting in the conference room at the Microtel Inn each Sunday morning!

Bible Study: 9am

Worship service: 10am

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RED OAK CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE GUIDELINE

Psalms 31:3

TO BE SAVED ONE MUST COME OUT OF DENOMINATIONALISM

There is no salvation in denominationalism. Salvation is only in the body of Christ (Ephesians 5:23), which is His one church (Ephesians 1:22-23). The lost need only the true gospel message of salvation. Most denominations do not believe that baptism is essential for one to be saved. But Jesus says, *“He that believes and is baptized shall be saved”* (Mark 16:16). One needs help to misunderstand this. If we would have salvation we must do what the Lord says and not what man says. What does the Lord do with those who are saved when they are baptized? *“And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved”* (Acts 2:47). The Lord never added the saved to any denomination. The Lord adds only the saved to His one church and there are no unsaved people in the Lord's church. Since the Lord does not add the unsaved to His church, the unsaved have to join a denomination. There is no salvation in any of the many denominational churches which men have begun. Those who follow false denominational doctrines have been deluded into thinking they are saved. The Day of Judgment will be too late for one to find out this awful truth. This is a sad situation.

The Lord has only one church. This fact is very unpopular with many people who belong to the many differing denominations. But the Bible says, *“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord,*

one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all" (Ephesians 4:4-6). We might ask, is one God as good as another? No. Is one Lord as good as another? No. Is one body as good as another? No. What is the Lord's one body? Jesus is the "head over all things to the church, which is His body" (Ephesians 1:22-23). We see that the Lord has only one body and that one spiritual body is His church, the church of Christ. Jesus only promised to build His one church. He said "Upon this rock I will build My church" (Matthew 16:18). "My" is possessive, meaning it belongs to Him, and the word "church" is singular, not plural. Ephesians 5:23 says that Jesus "is the Saviour of the body", the church. Jesus has only promised to save those in His "one body", His one church. But the sad and tragic thing is that all other people in the many differing denominations are going to be lost. Christ has only one church that belongs to Him.

The one church for which the Lord shed His blood and died is far superior to all the denominations founded by men. The Lord's church was "purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28). Christ "loved the church and gave Himself for her" (Ephesians 5:23). If one expects to be saved, he must be in the Lord's one body, His church, and not in a man made denominational church. So we have seen that each of the denominational churches are as good as all the other denominations since they are all worthless and will only cause one to lose his soul in the eternal fires of Hell. But the Lord's one true church is far, far superior to any denominational church. There is no comparison. What is Christ going to do with His one body which is His one church? Ephesians 5:23 says, "Christ is the head of the church and He is the Saviour of the body". Only the Lord's church contains those who are saved, and Christ is the only Saviour of that one church. The Lord only has His one true church, the church of Christ. Christ built only it, died only for it, and has only promised to save it. Jesus never built a denomination. The Bible says nothing about the Lord saving a denomination.

Ephesians 5:25 says, "Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her". Christ only gave Himself for His one church "which He purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28). Christ only died for His one church. Christ does not have any illegitimate churches. Christ did not give Himself for or purchase any of the more than 600 different denominational churches.

One of Satan's most effective lies is "one church is as good as another". Satan tries to complicate the Lord's plan of salvation with unscriptural ways to be saved, such as "accepting Jesus as your personal Saviour" and to "join the church of your choice". Eternity awaits each of us. We cannot afford to be wrong about our eternal salvation. If only the pure word of God is obeyed without addition, subtraction, innovation, or alteration, it will only produce Christians. If people will take only the Bible and believe only what it teaches, teach only what it teaches, obey only what it teaches, and practice only what it teaches; only then can one be a Christian and be pleasing to God and go to Heaven.

God will root up all the illegitimate denominational plants, since He did not plant them. Jesus says, "Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up." (Matthew 15:13). Since Jesus did not build any denominational church, they all stand under His condemnation. There are many people laboring in vain in their man-made churches. God's word says, "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it" (Psalms 127:1). People must come out of denominationalism by being baptized for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:38) so they can be saved (Mark 16:16). Then the Lord will add them to His church (Acts 2:47) where Jesus promises, "Be faithful until death and I will give you the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10).

If you are in a denomination and you want to be saved so you can go to Heaven when this short life is over, then please come out of your denomination and obey what Jesus says you