

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Are there saved people in all churches?

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Sometimes we hear members of the Lord's church utter the following thoughts: “I just don't think we can say that people in the denominations are lost”. “I believe that there are saved people in all denominations.” Let us briefly look at these statements.

We need to first remind ourselves that Christ has clearly given His plan whereby we are saved. One must believe or have faith in Jesus through the gospel message (John 3:16, Romans 10:17, Mk. 16:15-16); repent of his sins (Acts 17:30-31, 2:38); confess Jesus to be the Christ, the Son of God before men (Rom. 10:9-10, Acts 8:37); and be baptized in water for the remission of one's sins (Acts 2:38, 8:36-39).

This action puts one into Christ and into the Lord's church (Acts 2:38, 41, 47, I Cor. 12:13; Rom. 6:3, Gal. 3:26-27). Therefore, to be in Christ is to be in His church.

Does denominationalism teach people to do the above things in order to be saved? If not, how can a person be saved who obeys the teachings of denominationalism?

We need to remember, Jesus' words that he has spoken will judge us in the last day (John 12:48). He has clearly warned us that entering kingdom of heaven will be the experience of those who “do the will of the Father” in contrast to those who merely say, “Lord, Lord” (Matthew 7:21).

Is it the words of Christ, and the will of the Father that a person is saved by “faith only”? The Lord says “ye see that by works a man is justified, and not only by faith” (James 2:14, 24). If a denomination teaches that a person is saved by faith only, and the word of the Lord teaches this to be impossible, will that person, believing and doing what the denomination tells him, be saved?

If a denomination teaches that salvation is by Grace only, when the Lord's word says we are “saved by grace through faith” (Ephesians 2:8), and that saving faith is a faith that works (James 2:26, Gal. 5:6), will one be saved who believes the denomination's teaching and never exercises his faith as God has revealed?

The Lord clearly teaches us that we must believe and be bap-

tized in order to be saved (Mark 16:15-16). He also says that baptism is for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38)? And, does he not also clearly say that baptism saves us (I Peter 3:21)? In light of the word of the Lord on the matter of baptism, if a denomination teaches that baptism does not save us, and one can be saved without baptism, then will one who believes and obeys that denominational teaching be saved?

Some tend to forget that people being saved is not only a matter of God's goodness (Rom. 11:22), or his power, but it is also based upon recognizing the Lord's authority (Acts 4:12). God's love has sent His son to die so we can be saved (Jn. 3:16); His power is in the revealed gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16-17); But if man will not obey the gospel of God, he will be lost, not saved, in the last day (2 Thess. 1:7-9).

When a person does not obey the gospel of Christ, are you willing to tell him that he “might” be saved, or that you “cannot say” he is not saved? We need to have the courage to tell people the truth (John 17:17), and then urge them to obey the truth before it is too late.