

## ***Why I Am a Member of the Church of Christ***

People have offered a variety of reasons for their religious connections. I am here presenting my reasons for being a member of the church of Christ; but, first, some negative thoughts:

1. Not because of wealth. The Roman Catholic Church is probably the wealthiest (in material worth) religious organization in the world. The Mormon Church ranks high in wealth among American churches. If I were interested in the material value of a religious body, I would not be a member of the church of Christ.
2. Not because of popularity. The Southern Baptist Denomination boasts the largest membership of any Protestant body in the United States. If I wanted to be lined up with something big and popular, I would not be a member of the church of Christ.
3. Not because of social prestige. Most of the people in the church of Christ are just plain, ordinary folks socially.
4. Not because of convenience. At times it would be much more convenient to belong to some denominational organization. One could remain in good standing with little effort, and could be considerably more lax in his living without anyone attempting to correct him.
5. Not because of family connection. No one ever tried to get me into the church of Christ in order to maintain a family tradition. If he had done so, and I suppose such things may sometimes occur, he would have been using the wrong motive.

### ***The Real Reason***

The reason why I am a member of the church of Christ is quite simple. I heard the gospel, believed it, and was baptized for the remission of my sins. The people who taught me the gospel were content to stop where the gospel stops. They did not ask me to affiliate with any denomination. I have never done so. Hence, I became a Christian and a Christian only, was added by the Lord to His church (Acts 2:47) and have since worked and worshipped with the people who did the same.

You might say that I am a member of the church of Christ for the same reason that I am a Christian; obedience to the gospel of Christ never makes one anything else. The same Lord who saves people (making them Christians) adds them to His church (the church He built).

If the Lord added to the Methodist church such as should be saved, I would be a Methodist. If He added to the Lutheran church such as should be saved, I would be a Lutheran. If He added to the Presbyterian church such as should be saved, I would be a Presbyterian. But since He adds to His own church, that is where He put me and that is where I am to stay.

***- by Irvin Himmel***

---

## ***About Jesus ...***

This Jesus of Nazareth, without money and arms, conquered more millions than Alexander, Caesar, Mohammed, and Napoleon; without science and learning, He shed more light on things human and divine than all philosophers and scholars combined; without the eloquence of schools, He spoke such words of life as were never spoken before or since and produced effects which lie beyond the reach of orator or poet; without writing a single line, He set more pens in motion, and furnished themes for more sermons, orations, discussions, learned volumes, works of art, and songs of praise, than the whole army of great men of ancient and modern times."

***- by Philip Schaff***

---

## ***What the Baptists Really Teach About 'The Impossibility of Apostasy'***

Take a careful look at this quote. In it you will see fully exposed the Baptists' view on apostasy.

*"We take the position that a Christian's sins do not damn his soul. The way a Christian lives, what he says, his character, his conduct, or his attitude toward other people have nothing whatever to do with the salvation of his soul. This is settled in Christ and Christ alone . . . All the prayers a man may pray, all the Bibles he may read, all the churches he may belong to, all the -services he may attend, all the sermons he may practice, all the debts he may pay, all the ordinances he may observe, all the laws he may keep, all the benevolent acts he may perform will not make his soul one whit safer; and all the sins he may commit from idolatry to murder will not make his soul in any more danger . . ."*

**- Sam Morris, Pastor,**  
*First Baptist Church, Stamford, Texas*

The Baptists often refer to this as "once saved, always saved", or sometimes you hear them call it the "security of the believer". No matter what terms are used to describe it, the results of this totally Calvinistic position are obvious. And, while we may be appalled by the plainness of his wording, we respect the honest consistency of Mr. Morris in expressing his view. Many other Baptists are not nearly so willing to admit the logical consequences of their doctrine. But, if "a Christian's sins do not damn his soul", then Morris is correct in stating that it matters not if the sin is idolatry, or murder, or adultery, etc. If this argument holds for some sins, it holds for all.

Compare this to the simple Bible truth on the subject which is found in these passages: Gal. 5:4; 1 Tim. 1:19,20 & 5:8; Acts 8:18-24, etc. The fact is that we must be "faithful unto death" to receive the "crown of life" (Rev. 2:10).

**- by Greg Gwin**