

How Many Churches?

How many churches did Jesus promise to build? One. "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it" (Matthew 16:18).

How many churches did Jesus die for? One. "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28).

How many churches is Christ the head of? One. "For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church . . ." (Ephesians 5:23a).

How many churches is Christ the Savior of? One. ". . . He Himself being the Savior of the body" (Ephesians 5:23b).

How many churches are there in God's plan? One. "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were also called in one hope of your calling" (Ephesians 4:4).

Into how many parts or denominations is the church divided? None. "Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10). "Has Christ been divided?" (v. 13a)

- by Frank Himmel

This May Shock You

This may shock you, but there are a number of things that the Bible does not teach that a multitude of people are not aware of.

The Bible does not teach that one church is as good as another. Rather, the Bible says, "There is one body" (Ephesians 4:4). Christ only built one church. Are the ones He didn't build just as good as the one He did build? That would make man's works as good as God's. Jesus said, "Every plant, which My heavenly Father has not planted, shall be rooted up" (Matthew 15:13). You see, Jesus didn't seem to think that one church is as good as another.

The Bible does not teach that Christ will return to earth to reign on a literal throne for 1,000 years. That would be a shocking fact for more than 80% of religious people. However, the verse that so teaches is yet to be found. I read, that when Christ comes again, that will be the end (1 Corinthians 15:23-24).

The Bible doesn't teach that Christ was born on December 25th. Neither does the Bible teach that there were three wise men.

The Bible doesn't teach that terms such as "Reverend," "Pastor," and "Father" should be applied to a preacher. The term "Reverend" is only used one time in the Bible, and that time it applies to God (Psalm 111:9, KJV). "Pastor" simply means one that is a shepherd over a flock. It is descriptive of an elder in the church that meets certain qualifications (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9). Jesus condemned the use of such terms as "Father" in Matthew 23:1-12.

The Bible teaches that only those who are the members of the body of Christ will be saved. I read that Christ is "the Savior of the body" (Ephesians 5:23). Thus, He only promises to save those in the body. His body and church are one and the same (Colossians 1:18). Thus, only those in His church, the church of Christ, will be saved (Romans 16:16).

If number five is a shocker, this will shock you more. The Bible teaches that not all of those in the body of Christ will be eternally saved. I read how the faithful will receive a crown of life (Revelations 2:10). Some of those that were once sanctified by the blood of Christ will turn aside and be lost (Hebrews 10:26-29).

The Bible teaches us that "rejoice" and "forgive one another," are commands of God (Philippians 4:4; Ephesians 4:32). These are not just suggestions that will make us better people. Neither is there an option to choose or not to choose. These are commands! Violating them is sin (1 John 3:4). To sin is to separate oneself from God (Isaiah 59:1-2).

The Bible teaches that "faith" is a work (John 6:29). If we are saved by faith only, we are saved by a work. If works do not save us at all, then we are not saved by faith.

- by Donnie V. Rader

"So Great Salvation"

"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him." (Hebrews 2:3)

Christians should think long and meditate often about the wonderful salvation that God has made available to us through His Son. Look at this text, and realize that we are the recipients of a:

"Great Salvation": It is great because our past sins have been forgiven; we enjoy a present relationship with God as our loving Father; and we have the hope of a beautiful future in eternity.

"Spoken Salvation": Too many people in the religious world trust their subjective feelings concerning their eternal souls. They wouldn't do that if it involved their material possessions or their financial security, but they do it with their souls. It simply makes no sense. God does not ask us to trust our salvation to such uncertainty. Instead, he has given us His spoken word, whereby we can learn and understand the things essential to salvation (Rom. 1:16; 10:17; Eph. 3:3-5).

"Confirmed Salvation": We can be sure that the salvation offered through Jesus Christ is legitimate. The message of salvation was confirmed by the men who knew Jesus, who saw Him, heard Him, worked with Him. They were eyewitnesses to His life, and their words and accounts assure us that these things are true. In fact, their willingness to die for His cause is one of the surest proofs of all. Furthermore, God also confirmed their testimony by way of the miracles they were empowered to do (see the previous verse, Heb. 2:4).

"Conditional Salvation": A key word in this great text is the word **IF**. It clearly teaches that our salvation is conditional upon meeting the requirements set forth in God's word. God offers us this wonderful gift. We show our willingness to accept it by doing His will. Salvation is for "all them that obey him" (Heb. 5:8,9).

- by Greg Gwin