

For Our Information

Theresa LaValla's grandbaby is back home and doing much better.

Jerry and Dottie Henderson, Dan's parents, will be flying back toward home on Monday.

Several of our members who have had health issues are doing better. We need to remember to thank God for their recovery as we continue to pray for others who are still having problems.

Remember one another as we pray to the Father each day

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

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We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

against it (**Hebrews 12:4**). However, even the strongest of Christians will occasionally stumble. Concerning which John writes, "And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (**1John 2:1**). It is through Him we approach our Heavenly Father for forgiveness.

One must accept the truth set forth in **Ephesians 4:4-6** that, "There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all." It would be impossible to be in Christ, in His body, which is His church and be a member of a denominational church at the same time. Christ has not been divided physically so why believe that His spiritual body contains multiple hundreds of denominations (**1Corinthians 1:12-13**). The truth is, there are no divisions in this one body, His church (**1Corinthians 12:20-27**). Since the forgiveness of sins is promised only to those who are in this one body, then it necessarily follows that there is no forgiveness of sins promised to those in any other religious organization on earth. Only in Christ (His body, His church) is there forgiveness of sins.

Seeking His Righteousness

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Be In Christ!

Ray Wilson

One should be a member of the church of Christ because Jesus is its founder. This profound statement of fact was made by Jesus in **Matthew 16:13-19**. Within a few short statements Jesus revealed several truths about His church that mankind needs to learn and understand. Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" Some thought He was John the Baptist while others thought he was Elijah; but still others believed Him to be Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.

Jesus then asked His disciples, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter responded by saying, "Thou art the Christ the Son of the living God." The term 'Christ' refers to the Messiah, the anointed of God for whom the Jews had long awaited. Of more importance,



In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us. Ephesians 1:7



1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

Meet With Us

Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

TannerSt.com

Peter recognized Jesus' deity by calling Him the Son of God.

Jesus responded to Peter and said, *"Blessed are you Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven."* Peter, being mere flesh and blood, could not have received this information through any human source. Lenski, in his commentary on **Matthew 16:17** says, "Actually to realize in the man Jesus the presence of the Christ and Son of God requires more than sinful flesh and blood is able to muster.....The Father revealed Jesus to Peter through Jesus Himself, and He endeavors to do this in the case of all men by bringing Jesus into contact with them."

After Peter's good confession, Jesus was now going to reveal something of extreme importance to him saying, *"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it."* The rock upon which Jesus was going to build His church was not Peter ('Petros'), but upon the solid foundation rock ('Petra'), which was the confession of Peter that, *"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

There is only "one true church". Jesus said, *"I will build My church and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it."* The church of Christ is not a building constructed of materials such as wood, stone or brick. It is composed of all who were being saved, **Acts 2:47**. That the church is composed of people and not material things is seen in **Acts 5:11** where it is said that, *"And great fear came upon the whole church";* and in **Acts 11:22** which says, *"And news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem."* These scriptures clearly show that the church of Christ is not a building but is composed of people. Also, the church of Christ is not one of the several hundred Protestant denominations; all of which can trace their beginnings to a point in time after Pentecost when, in **Acts 2:14-47**, the Lord's church was established.

As we have seen, the church of Christ is a spiritual institution composed of those being saved, **Acts 2:47**. It is the one true church which was purchased by Christ with His own blood, **Acts 20:28**. He is the only founder and builder, **Matthew 16:18**. He is the head of the church, **Ephesians 5:23**.

Store In My Heart

Matthew 1:21

She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

This verse declares salvation by Jesus. Jesus is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew Joshua which means Savior. God, born of woman, came to earth for the purpose of saving us from our wickedness.

It is comforting to know our Creator is willing to give so that we might avoid the punishment we deserve. The wise man would accept this gift no matter what was necessary on his part to receive it.

As an aside, this passage also shows us God considers the conceived seed to be one and the same with the one brought forth. Conception is the beginning of life, not birth.

Jesus is our lawgiver, both Lord and Christ, **Acts 2:36**. And finally Jesus is the Savior of the body which is His church, **Ephesians 5:23; 1:22-23**.

Only in Christ is there forgiveness of sins. Paul in his letter to the saints at Ephesus sets forth this truth in a way that anyone with an honest and good heart could understand. *"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are at Ephesus, and who are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed by the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,.....In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace."* (**Ephesians 1:1-7**)

To be in Christ is to be in His body (**1Corinthians 12:12-14**). The only way to get into His body is to believe, repent, and be baptized into Him (**Galatians 3:26-27**). His body is His church (**Colossians 1:18,24**). Also, in **Colossians 1:7-10**, we find that Paul had been informed of their love in the Spirit. This knowledge prompted Paul to pray for them that they might have all things needed *"for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins"* (**Colossians 1:11-14**). Christ is the head of the church, *"He Himself being the Savior of the body"* (**Ephesians 5:23**).

Giving careful consideration to these scriptures, only one conclusion can be drawn. To be in Christ is to be in His body. To be in His body is to be in His church. To be in His church is to be in His kingdom. To be in His kingdom is to have our sins forgiven. To have our sins forgiven is to be saved, to be blessed *"with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ"* (**Ephesians 1:3**). One such blessing is the privilege of prayer through which the penitent Christian may approach his Heavenly Father and seek forgiveness (**Acts 8:22**). The child of God is expected to oppose sin and to be constantly striving