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# BIBLE TALK

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Welcome to "Bible Talk." This week we are discussing this question: **If the church doesn't matter, then what? (pt. 2)**

Many people today view the church as "nice" but not necessary. They think the church is a good organization that has some good qualities, but they do not view it as essential. Suppose, for a moment, this is right. Suppose that the church doesn't really matter. Suppose that we could get along without the church just as well as with it. What would this imply?

## **THERE IS NO SALVATION WITHOUT THE CHURCH**

The last time we discussed this topic, we noticed Acts 20:28 where the Bible says Jesus died for the church and shed His blood for the church. We drew the conclusion that if the church is not necessary, then the Blood of Jesus is not necessary either.

But, my friend, if the church is not necessary, then men cannot be saved. The inspired writer said this in:

### **Acts 2:47**

47 ... the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Who were these "ones being saved" which this passage talks about? Just look up to the 41<sup>st</sup> verse:

### **Acts 2:41**

41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

The ones being added to the church were the ones receiving the words of the apostles and being baptized. What did the apostles tell these 3000 people? Back up to verse 38 and you'll find the answer:

### **Acts 2:38**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Listen to me carefully. Think about what I'm saying.

- How many people obeyed the apostle? 3000 people obeyed
- When they were baptized, what happened to them? They received the "remission [forgiveness] of their sins. They were not saved by saying a "sinner's prayer." They were not saved by faith only. They were saved when their faith moved them to be obedient to baptism and their baptism was for the "remission of sins."
- What else happened to them? They were "added to the church" – the Lord's church. The church which Jesus spoke about in Mt. 16:18: "Upon this rock I will build My church and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it."
- How many of these 3000 people were added to the Lord's church? My friend, every one of them were added. None were left out.
- How many unbaptized people were added to the Lord's church? Not a single one.

Do you see the point? When men were baptized they received the forgiveness of their sins and the Lord Himself added them to the church He said He Himself would build.

If you would do the same thing, you too would be added to the same church. The Lord does not change (Heb. 13:8). Neither is He a respecter of persons – He does not show partiality (Acts 10:34). The only way those people could be saved was to believe the gospel message and be baptized for the remission of sins. When they did this, they were automatically added, by the Lord, to the church. But if the church is not necessary, then there is no remission of sins – there is no salvation.

The idea that the church is not necessary is an idea that originated in the mind of man. It is not true. The church is God's group of saved people. No one who is saved is left out by the Lord and no lost person is put in by the Lord. You too can be a member of the church you read about in the Bible by doing the very same thing the people in the Bible did.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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Call again next week when we consider a new subject on ***Bible Talk***.