
BIBLE TALK

Welcome to "Bible Talk." This week we are discussing this question: **If the church doesn't matter, then what? (pt. 1)**

Perhaps you are like many people today who view the church as "nice" but not necessary. Many people look at the church like this. They view it as a good organization that has many good points about it, but they do not view it as essential to their well being.

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?

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST UNNECESSARY?

First, and foremost, this would mean that the blood of Jesus Christ was absolutely unnecessary. It would mean that God send Jesus to die on the cross and shed His blood, but it was all a waste of time. Why do I say that? Listen to the following passage of scripture:

Acts 20:28

28 ... shepherd **the church** of God **which He purchased with His own blood.**

Again:

Ephesians 5:25

25 ... Christ ... loved the church and gave Himself for her,

Do you see the significance of these passages? Jesus "gave Himself for the church." He shed his blood and purchased the church with His blood. If the church is unnecessary, the only logical conclusion is that Jesus wasted His time dying on the cross.

What is the church? The church is obviously not a building, because Jesus did not die for a building. The church is a group of people who have obeyed the gospel and have been forgiven of their sins.

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.

Acts 2:41

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

Acts 2:47

47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

The people who obeyed and were baptized were added by the Lord to the church. Now, answer these simple, logical questions:

- How many baptized people were added by the Lord to the church? All of them – 3000.
- How many baptized people were left out of the church? Not one.
- How many unbaptized people were added by the Lord to the church? Not one.

The church, then, is all people who have obeyed the terms of salvation – having been baptized for the remission of sins. When people do this, the Lord Himself adds people to His church (or group of saved people) which He purchased with His own blood.

In other words, what these passages are trying to tell us, if we will listen, is that no one can be saved outside the Lord's church.

- You cannot be saved in a "community church."
- You cannot be saved in a manmade denomination.

Only the Lord's church was purchased by the Lord's blood. Men cannot invent churches that are just as good as the Lord's church.

Matthew 15:9

9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

Psalms 127:1

1 Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.

My friend, if you're not a member of the church built by the Lord, you are "laboring in vain" according to this passage. We say this humbly. You need to know this for your own good.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our web site www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

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