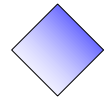


# The Voice of Truth



November 11, 2012

## Shall Only Those in the Church of Christ Be in Heaven?

By Jimmy Pettigrew

This is a question that is asked of the members of the church of Christ from time to time. I feel the best way in answering this question is with some questions. Jesus did this often when He was confronted with scribes and elders. Notice one example in **Mark 11:27-33**: *“And they come again to Jerusalem: and as he was walking in the temple, there come to him the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders; and they said unto him, By what authority doest thou these things? or who gave thee this authority to do these things? And Jesus said unto them, I will ask of you one question, and answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or from men? answer me. And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; He will say, Why then did ye not believe him? But should we say, From men — they feared the people: for all verily held John to be a prophet. And they answered Jesus and say, We know not. And Jesus saith unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.”* So, let us use the same tactic that Christ used in answering this question with some questions.

**Do you believe there is one God?** Where did you get your answer? There is not but one place that anyone can go to answer this question: **THE BIBLE!** Notice these passages: *“The Mighty One, God, Jehovah, the Mighty One, God, Jehovah, he knoweth; and Israel he shall know: if it be in rebellion, or if in trespass against Jehovah (save thou us not this day,)”; “The Mighty One, God, Jehovah, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof”; “Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, profaning the covenant of our fathers?”; “Yet to us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we unto him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and we through him”; “For there is one God, one mediator also between God and men, (himself) man, Christ Jesus”; “One God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all”* (**Joshua 22:22; Psalms 50:1; Malachi 2:10; I Corin-**

**thians 8:6; I Timothy 2:5; Ephesians 4:6**). After analyzing these passages there is only **ONE ANSWER**. Yes, there is one God, the Father. Now, tell me how did we achieve this answer? It is clear that the answer came from God’s word, the Bible. Why would you teach that there is one God? You would respond, “Because the Bible says so.” Right! Let look at some more questions.

**Is there one Spirit?** Yes, there is one Spirit. How did you arrive at that conclusion? From the Bible, (**Ephesians 4:4; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14**). Why would you teach that there is one Spirit? You would respond, “Because the Bible says so.” Right!

**Is there one faith?** Yes, there is one faith. How did you arrive at that conclusion? From the Bible, (**Ephesians 4:5; Jude 3; Galatians 1:6-9**). Why would you teach that there is one faith? You would respond, “Because the Bible says so.” Right!

**Is there one Lord?** Yes, there is one Lord. How did you arrive at that conclusion? From the Bible, (**Ephesians 4:5; Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 7:21; Luke 6:46; Acts 2:36; Romans 10:12; Colossians 3:17**). Why would you teach that there is one Lord? You would respond, “Because the Bible says so.” Right!

**Is there one body?** Yes, there is one body. How did you arrive at that conclusion? From the Bible, (**Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4; 5:23; Colossians 1:18, 24**). How many bodies are mentioned in these passages? **ONE**. Since the body is the church and there is only one body, how many churches are there? **ONE**. Once again how did you arrive at that conclusion? From the scriptures.

**Is there only one way to be saved?** Yes, there is only one way to be saved. How did you arrive at that conclusion? From the Bible, (**John 14:6; 6:44-45; Acts 4:12**). Why would you teach that there is only one way of

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salvation? You would respond, "Because the Bible says so." Right! The Bible teaches that there is only one way of salvation. You might ask, "What is this one way of salvation?" Well, where will we find the answer to this question? Again, from God's word. What then does the word of God say about what one must do to be saved?

a. One must hear God's word (**Romans 10:17; Acts 2:37**).

b. One must believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God (**John 8:24; Mark 16:16**).

c. One must repent of his/her sins (**Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38**).

d. One must confess that Jesus is the Christ (**Acts 8:37; Romans 10:10**).

e. One must be baptized (**Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21**).

Now, if you have not done the things mentioned above for salvation, are you saved? **NO!** Why? You would respond because the Bible says you must do the things mentioned above to be saved. Right!

**Will only the saved be in heaven?** Yes, only those who are obedient to the will of Christ will be saved. How did you arrive at that conclusion? From the scriptures, (**Hebrews 5:8-9; Matthew 7:21-23; Luke 6:46**).

**Those who are in Christ, will they be in heaven?** Yes, only those in Christ will be in heaven. How did you arrive to

that conclusion? From the Bible (**Romans 8:1; 1 John 5:11; Revelation 14:13**). The Bible teaches one must be in Christ where salvation is found (**Acts 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:10**).

**How does one get into Christ?** By being baptized into Christ. How did you arrive to that conclusion? From the scriptures (**Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:26-27**). The same act that puts one into Christ (baptism) puts one in the body which is the church. Wait, how did you arrive at that conclusion? From the scriptures, "For in one Spirit were we all baptized into one body" (**1 Corinthians 12:13**). Okay, we are baptized into Christ, and this also puts us in the one body, the church. Now, is Jesus the savior of the one body the church? Yes! "Christ also is the head of the church, (being) himself the saviour of the body" (**Ephesians 5:23**).

Seeing that those who are in Christ are those in the one body which is the one church, in which Jesus is the saviour of, would you say one must be a member of the church to go to heaven? **YES!** "Shall only those in the church of Christ be in heaven?" **YES!**

Just because one obeys the gospel and becomes a part of the church does not mean he will automatically go to heaven. One must be faithful to the end (**Revelation 2:10**). For one to have a chance to go to heaven, one must be a member of the church which Jesus purchased with His own blood (**Acts 20:28**); one must be a member of the church of Christ!

## Are You Like The Bereans?

By Jonathan L. Perz

You might be wondering, "Who are the Bereans?" Though the Bible says little of this people, what it does say speaks volumes!

*"Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men."* (**Acts 17:10-12**)

- The Bible says they were "fair-minded!" Are you?
- The Bible says they "received the word with all readiness!" Do you?
- The Bible says they "searched the Scriptures daily!" Do you?
- The Bible says they wanted "to find out if these things were so!" Do you?
- The Bible says "many of them believed?" Have you?

**INDEED, THE LORD'S CHURCH NEEDS MORE OF THE BEREAN SPIRIT!**

## “Tell Us Plainly” By Jarrod Jacobs

As Jesus met people and taught them, He encountered many who were interested in learning the truth. He met others, however, who had ulterior motives. Though they spoke the “right things”, they had another purpose in asking the questions that they asked. On one occasion, a group asked Jesus, *“How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.”* Jesus answered them, *‘I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name, bear witness about me’* (Jn. 10:24-25). Though the Jews had ulterior motives behind this question, the request they made is one that all Christians need to take to heart. In teaching God’s word to others, whether in a public or private setting, the best thing to do is tell people plainly what the Bible says. Why is this necessary?

### We Must Speak Plainly Because Souls Are At Stake.

Jesus taught that there is nothing more important than the soul, for nothing can equal its value (Matt. 16:26). When people exchange their soul for some worldly prize, they are being short-changed! God thought that the souls of men were important enough to send His only begotten Son to die for them (Jn. 3:16). Jesus died as a sacrifice because of the importance of man’s soul (Gen. 3:15; II Cor. 5:20-21). Knowing this, let us ask ourselves if we are speaking as plainly as we can about salvation and how to obtain salvation today!

### We Must Speak Plainly Because The Apostles Spoke Plainly.

In the midst of a crowd who had crucified Jesus a month and a half earlier, Peter said, *“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ”* (Acts 2:36). I wonder if some there missed the point and did not understand that they were found guilty of crucifying Christ?

When threatened with their very lives, the apostles would not be quieted. They preached Christ and Him crucified to those who had the authority to kill them (Acts 5:29-34). They knew the importance of one’s soul, and so they spoke plainly (II Cor. 3:12).

### We Must Speak Plainly To Expose False Teachers.

Many times false teachers will hide behind vague

words and subtleties in order to fool people. Jesus warned that false teachers would appear as sheep (Matt. 7:15), but were really *“grievous wolves”* (read also: Acts 20:29-31). Jesus said that the false teachers of His day were hypocrites (Matt. 23:2-12). The Bible says these people shipwrecked some brethren’s faith (II Tim. 2:16-18), and taught things contrary to God’s word (Rom. 16:17). Are we afraid of plainness of speech? *“Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them”* (Eph. 5:11).

### We Must Speak Plainly Because The Truth Has Nothing To Fear.

In speaking plainly, we will not have to worry about people misunderstanding us. It is a sad occurrence to see a man have to “explain” or “re-explain” himself because he did not speak plainly enough, but it happens sometimes. In contrast, if we make it a practice to speak plainly, then when we need corrected, those who know the truth can help us learn the whole truth. Apollos stands out as a good example of this. When first introduced to him, he knew only the baptism of John. Yet, because of his plainness of speech, Aquila and Priscilla were able to teach him, *“the way of God more accurately.”* The end result was that he went on to teach others and, *“greatly helped those who through grace had believed”* (Acts 18:24-28).

Please know that when one speaks plainly, that does not mean that he speaks rudely! Jesus, Peter, Paul and others spoke plainly, but not rudely. There is a difference! Let us think about these things and ask ourselves if we are speaking plain enough to lead someone to Christ!

### Conclusion

Please understand that though these people requested that Christ speak “plainly”, they had ulterior motives for making this request. This is seen clearly in John 10. Christ spoke plainly, and His actions also declared exactly who He is (Jn. 10:25, 32). May we, as God’s children, be as plain-spoken as Christ so we can lead precious souls to

*Christ. Credit: The Old Paths - 10/7/12 •*

## THE ONE BODY

The church is the body of Christ, "And he is the head of the body, the church (**Col. 1:18**). There is only one body, one church. "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all" (**Eph. 1:22-23**). The New Testament teaches that there is only one body; this one body is the church. We are "fellow heirs of the same body" (**Eph. 3:6**). We are "reconciled to God in one body" (**Eph. 2:16**). Christ is founder of only one church. "Upon this rock I will build my church" (**Matt. 16:18**). Jesus did not say that we would build a church, His church or one of His churches. He said, "I will build my church." The word "church" signifies singularity. Jesus did not build many different churches, but one! None should encourage any to seek the church of your choice, but the church of Christ's choice, that is, the one that is Christ-built, blood-bought (**Acts 20:28**), the one in which He is the Saviour of (**Eph. 5:23**).

Since there is one, and only one church and since Christ saves only those in that one church; thus, if one living today is not a member of that church (**Rom. 16:16**), then he is not saved. ♦

### What Do I Owe My Congregation?

Author unknown

**I owe it my loyalty.** I must help carry out every good work it undertakes. I should help other congregations in special efforts, but I should not neglect my home congregation. I owe it my dependability. I am depending on it for many things it does in my behalf. It is not fair and right for me to depend on it and not be such that it cannot depend on me.

**I owe it my financial support.** It takes money to operate the church and preach the gospel. I am responsible to the Lord to give as He has prospered me. My home congregation has first call on my financial ability, for if the members of the church do not support the work of the home congregation, it will not be supported. The expenses go on whether I am there or not, so I should make up my contribution when absent.

**I owe it my presence.** If everyone stayed home there would be no worship of God. I am responsible as anyone to attend all of my congregation's services. I must not be a parasite.

**I owe it the influence of a godly life.** The life I live either helps others to obey the gospel or makes it the harder for them. How I live affects the work of the church and the salvation of the lost. I should live in such a way that my life will be blessing to others. ♦

### What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3

Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21

Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27

Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

### About the Hillcrest church of Christ

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#### Schedule of Assembly

**Bible Study:** Sunday, 9:00am  
**Worship Service:** Sunday, 10:00am  
**Bible Study:** Wednesday, 7:00pm\*

\*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

[www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com](http://www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com)