

## Who is Going To Heaven?

### 1. The MOST IMPORTANT Question of All

- A. Someone says, "Everyone is going. A just and kind God wouldn't punish someone forever in hell." Is this legitimate? Polly Klaas' murderer? Jim Bakker?
- B. Hell is a **real** place. In fact, 11 of 12 times in NT **Jesus** is speaker.
- C. Jesus said the way to heaven is **narrow** and the way to hell **broad** - Mt 7:13-14.

### 2. A Statement We Can Agree On: The ONLY people going to heaven are those whose sins have been forgiven and who are in fellowship with God through Jesus Christ.

- A. *"I will build **My** church"* - Mt 16:18.
- B. *"Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body"* - Eph 5:23.
- C. *"Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish"* - Eph 5:25-27.

**Conclusion:** Jesus is the Savior of His church (or His body) because only those in **His** church are fully cleansed from sin.

### 3. Misunderstanding the Word "Church"

- A. Singular: The world-wide body of believers; all saved people everywhere (including those who have died) - Eph 3:10, 21.
- B. Plural: Local congregations of believers who are related by common faith and salvation and who unite together in the Lord's work - Gal 1:2; Rom 16:16.
- C. **Who is going to heaven? Not** everyone in the local assembly/congregation - Rev 2:18-23. Note who *"searches the minds and hearts"* (Jesus) and **individual accountability**: *"And I will give to each one of you according to your works."* **The righteous saints in Thyatira are in "the church of Christ" and are going to heaven!**

### 4. Denominational Churches vs. the Lord's Church

- A. Define denomination: "(4) a religious organization uniting in a single legal and

administrative body a number of local congregations” (Webster’s Ninth, p 339).

1. Many such “denominations” exist with differing names, differing doctrines, differing practices, differing “revelations” from heaven.
2. Are all such organizations “Christ’s church”? What would it take to make a **false** church? **Illus:** The flap over Bevill State’s Jasper branch; it was threatened with loss of accreditation for breaking state rules. It could not change the rules and do as it pleased and *still retain accreditation*.

3. Are we really free to “join the church of **our** choice??”

B. There was a consistency/pattern of teaching and practice among congregations of Christ in the first century: 1 Cor 4:14-17; 2 Th 2:15; 2 Tim 1:13. Note the **warnings:** Gal 1:6-9; 2 Tim 4:1-4.

C. **Christ’s church  
in the NT**

Gal 3:26-27

Phil 1:1

1 Cor 14:34

Jas 2:24

**JESUS**

<ENTRY>

<ORGANIZATION>

<WORSHIP>

<DOCTRINE>

<**FOUNDER**>

**Denominational  
churches today**

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**?**

**Conclusion:**

1. We **do not** teach that all members of local churches of Christ will be saved. We **do** teach that “the Lord knows those who are His” (2 Tim 2:19) and only those who are truly in His body, the church, will go to heaven.
2. We **do** believe and teach that man has no right to add to, delete from or alter the teaching of the NT and call his organization “the church of Christ.” Jesus said, “*Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted*” (Mt 15:13).
3. “Are you saying, then, that you are the only ones who are right?” **Answer:** I believe this group of Christians *as a group* are worshiping according to the teaching of the NT. We remain open to discussion, debate and study on what the Bible actually teaches comparing that to our practices. We would ask that others do the same with their religious organizations.