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To be in Christ is to be in Church

TO BE IN CHRIST IS TO BE IN HIS CHURCH

Many people who are in the Church of Christ said that members of the Church of Christ are Christians, but not others as they pretend to be. In other words a person who is not the member of Church of Christ is not the real Christians.

The members of the Church of Christ are said to be Christians, only on the basis of self-righteousness. The Bible plainly teaches that **“salvation is in Christ”** (II Tim 2:10, Acts 4:12) and that *“To be in Christ is to be in the body of Christ”*, which is the Church of Christ (Col 1:18, Eph 1:22-23, Acts 10:18, Heb 9:22, Rom 5:8-9).

The Bible says *“one God, one Lord, one Spirit, one hope, one faith, one baptism and one body”* (Eph 4:4-6). In fact God is one and we are one body (Church of Christ for which Jesus Christ died). The Bible authorizes only one true Church of Christ which is his body, the Church which was purchased by the blood of Christ, as Acts 20:28 *“Church of God, which He hath purchased with his own blood”*. God planed this Church in eternity (Please refer the following verses, Eph 2:13-18, 3:10-11, 1:22-23, 4:4). The Old Testament prophets proclaimed of that one Church (Isa 2:1-4). Jesus promised to build that Church (Mat 16:18). He builds it (Acts 2:11) and Christ is the founder of the Church and head of the Church (Col 1:18, I Cor 3:11). With his own blood He purchased it (Acts 20:28, Eph 5:25, I Pet 1:18-19, Eph 1:7, 2:13, Rom 5:8-9, I John 1:7, Rev 1:5).

The Bible teaches that *“Salvation is in Christ”*(II Tim 2:10). From all the above verses I am affirming that, *“to be in Christ is to be in his Church”*(Gal

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3:26-27, I Cor 12:13, Mar 16:16, Acts 20:28, 2:38-42, Eph 1:7). Bible teaches that no man can get that salvation without being in Christ Jesus. The Bible also says that it is impossible to get Christ without being in His Church. The relation between the Christ and the Church can be seen in the statement of Paul the Apostle to Romans...

“And the lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:47).

The Bible plainly teaches that there are no Christians outside that Church, for which Jesus died. If any one obeys the gospel of Christ and if baptized in the name of Christ Jesus, then the Lord adds him to the Church at the very same time. Now we shall see how Christ and Church are related.

Chapter – I

RELATION BETWEEN CHRIST AND CHURCH

Every one will agree that Christ is essential for our salvation. But when asked, is Church essential to our salvation? The answer is “No”. Most of people believe that Christ is essential for salvation, but not Church. Some people also think membership in the Church of Christ is not of any eternal value. Hence I am stressing that the Bible teaches both Christ and Church is essential for salvation.

There is a close relationship between Church and Christ. As a member of the Church of Christ I would never feel shame to say, “I can never be saved with out being a member of the Church of Christ”.

THE CHURCH IS REFERRED AS THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

Apostle Paul wrote to the Church at Ephesus in his letter as follows...
“Wives are subject to your own husbands as to the Lord, for the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ is the head of the body. But as the Church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be their husbands in every thing. Husband’s love your wives just as Christ also loved the Church and gave Him up for her. Having cleansed her by the washing of water, with that He might present to Himself the Church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but she should be holy and blameless... For no one ever

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hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the Church, because we are members of His body. For this cause man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife and that two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great, but I am speaking with reference to the Christ and the Church. Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband ” (Eph 5:22-33).

Apostle Paul in this beautiful passage is talking about the great relationship between the Christ and Church. Here Paul tells about

1. The Church is referred as the bride of the Christ,
2. Christ would sanctify cleanse and present the Church to Himself, and
3. Christ gave Himself for the Church.

The Church was betrothed to Christ as a pure virgin

Apostle Paul stated in II Cor 11:2

“For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy, for I betrothed you to one husband, that to the Christ I might present you as pure virgin”.

In these words Paul means to say, Christ is the bridegroom to the Church and Church which is the bride of Christ which was betrothed to Him as a pure virgin. John the Baptist introduced Jesus Christ as bridegroom (Jn 3:28-30). The bride (The Church) must present herself to bridegroom (Christ) without having spot or wrinkle. She must be holy and blameless. The Church must be betrothed to Christ as pure virgin (II Cor 11:2). When the bride

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adorned for her bridegroom, then she will be given to marriage with her bridegroom (Mt 25:1, Rev 19:7, 21:2).

The Bible teaches that Christ would sanctify, cleanse and present the Church to Himself and He gave Himself for it (Eph 5:25-26). The Bible also teaches that He shed His blood to cleanse it (The Church). To be in good conscience the people of God who are sanctified in Christ Jesus are the Church (I Cor 1:2). The author of the book of Hebrews by the inspiration of the Holy spirit says that we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all (Heb 9:28, 10:10).

The Bible teaches that, to be present the bride (The Church for which Jesus died) to be betrothed to bridegroom as a pure virgin having no spot or wrinkle she should be holy and without blemish. He clothed us with the garments of salvation and has wrapped us with a robe of righteousness (Isa 61:10).

Apostle Paul said in Romans chapter 5 verse from 8-9

"But God demonstrated His own love towards us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us much more then having now been justified by the wrath of God through Him".

Paul in these words says Christ gave Himself to sanctify, cleanse and present the Church to Himself as a pure virgin. Paul affirmed that same truth in II Cor chapter 6 verse 1...

"You but you were washed, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of God".

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I am affirming that the Bible teaches that to present ourselves as the bride to be betrothed to Him or bridegroom as a pure virgin having a no spot or wrinkle and without blemish we should be clothed with the robe of righteousness. We know when we are baptized into Jesus Christ then we will be clothed ourselves with Christ and/or put on Christ (Gal 3:27).

In the gospel of Mark Jesus said...

"He who believed and has been baptized shall be saved, but He who has disbelieved shall be condemned" (Mk 16:16).

Everyone will agree that salvation is in Christ (II Tim 2:20) and we have to agree that also **"To be in Christ is to be in His Church"**. When one obeys the gospel by being baptized in the name of Christ, the Lord adds him to the Church.

In the records of book of acts, it is said...

"And the Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47)

And also we have to know the truth of that we are baptized into His body (the Church for which Jesus died).

Apostle Paul wrote to the Church in Corinth by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit

"For by one spirit we were all baptized into one body ... and we are all made to drink one Spirit"(I Cor 12:13).

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By this explanation of Paul we can understand that all who are baptized into Christ are clothed with Christ. Hence we will have newness of life which life Christ had and also we will have the Sprit of Christ (Gal 3:27, Rom 6:3-4, 8-9).

We know that the Bible teaches that salvation in Christ (II Tim 2:10) and I am affirming that the Bible teaches **"To be in Christ is to be His Church"** which is His body. We know that the Bible teaches that all who are baptized into Christ are clothed with the Sprit of Christ and He will join all the believers after having baptized to His body i.e. the Church for which Jesus died (I Cor 12:13). In short, all who obey the gospel and are baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, Lord adds them into His body (The Church Acts 2: 41, 47, I Cor 12:13). So we must realize the truth **"To be in Christ is to be in the Church"** which was purchased with the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28).

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Chapter – II

CHRIST SHED HIS BLOOD TO PURCHASE THE CHURCH

We all know that no one can be saved without being washed by the blood of Jesus Christ (Mat 26:28, Acts 20:28, Eph 1:7, Heb 9:11, I Pet 1:18). I affirm that Jesus Christ brought the Church with His blood (Acts 20:28, Eph 1:7, Tit 2:14, I Pet 1:19, Rev 5:9). The Bible teaches that no one can be saved without being a member of the Church of Christ (The Church which was purchased with blood of Christ). The Bible teaches that Christ Jesus shed His blood for two reasons,

- For the reemission of sins (Mat 26:28, Eph 1:7) and
- To purchase the Church (Acts 20:28)

Christ shed His blood for the remission of sins

The Bible teaches that Christ shed His blood to redeem the people, to save every sinner and or forgive the sins of the many people (Mat 26:28, Tom 5: 9, Eph 1; 7, 2; 13). Jesus Christ when He eats supper with His disciples before His trail said...

"For this is my blood of covenant which is poured out for forgiveness of sins"(Mat 26:28).

In this verse Jesus Christ make it clear that He shed His blood for the forgiveness of sins.

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Apostle Paul affirmed that...

"In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of His grace" (Eph 1:7).

In this verse Paul makes it clear that the blood of Jesus Christ will forgive sins.

The Bible teaches that while we are yet sinners Christ died for us and we have redemption through His blood and we are justified by the blood of Jesus Christ and we were reconciled with God by His blood.

"Much more then having now been justified by His blood we shall be saved from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies. We were reconciled to God through the death of His son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life"(Rom 5:9-10).

In this passage the Holy Spirit through Apostle Paul says that we were reconciled with God through the blood of Jesus Christ and we have a close relationship with God by His blood.

"But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ" (Eph 2:13, 2:17).

In these words, Paul by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit explains that when once we have no relationship with God and when we were living in this world without knowing God and without hope we are very far off from God. Christ died for us and reconciled us with God by shedding His blood. The Bible says that our sins and trespasses separated us from God (Eph 2:12, Isa 59:1-2). God wants every one of us should be holy, as God is holy

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(I Pet 1:16). The Bible also teaches that when we are very far off from God by our sins Christ shed His own blood to present us as a pure virgin, to be betrothed to Him as a beautiful bride of Christ. Through these inspiring scripture every one must realize that Christ shed His blood for the forgiveness of sin.

In the light of these short explanations of the Holy Scriptures, we must realize that salvation is in Christ Jesus.

"For this reason I will endure all things for the shake of those who are chosen, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus, and with it eternal glory"(II Tim 2:10). Therefore no person who has not entered Christ is not saved which means that has not washed away his sins in the blood of Jesus Christ does not belongs to Christ. I affirm that the all men become the children of God by believing and obeying the truth that is the true gospel of salvation and by being baptized in the name of Christ can only enter into the kingdom of God.

Apostle Paul writes to the Church at Galatians....

"For yea are all children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Gal 3:26-27)

In this passage Paul stated that who are baptized into Christ are the children of God and those who are baptized into Christ belong to Christ and are saved by Christ.

The Bible teaches that every person who is baptized in the name of Christ, at the very same moment he becomes a child of God. He becomes a Christian and he becomes a member of the Church of Christ (Acts 2:38, Rom 6:3-5, Gal 3:26-27, Acts 2:41-47, Eph 2:13-16, Acts 11:26).

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We know that the Bible teaches that those who have been reconciled unto God by the blood of Christ Jesus are saved. And those who have been reconciled unto God are the members of the body of Christ and/or Church of Christ (The Church which was bought with Christ's own blood). So the bible teaches that both Christ and the Church are essential to our relationship with Christ. I am affirming that **"To be in Christ is to be in His Church"** (The Church which was purchased with His own blood).

I affirm that the Bible teaches that it is impossible for any one to get into Christ with out being added into the Church for which Jesus died and shed His blood. We know, Bible says that those who have been reconciled unto God by the blood of Jesus Christ are saved (Rom 5:9-10) and those who have been reconciled unto Christ are the members of the body (The Church) of Christ (Eph 2:13-18). The Bible clearly teaches that the body of Christ is Church of Christ (Eph 1:22-23) and also Bible plainly teaches that the Church of Christ is the body of Christ (Col 1:18).

The Bible plainly teaches that there is one body (Eph 4:4-6) and that there is one and only one Church (The Church for which Jesus died and shed His own blood). Christ gave Himself for that one Church. He offered His body for it and He purchased the Church with His own blood (Eph 5:3, 26 Heb 9:28, 10:10, Acts 20:28).

We know that Christ shed his blood for two reasons...

- i. For the remission of the sins (Mat 26:28) and
- ii. To purchase the Church (Acts 20:28).

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We know that the Bible teaches that salvation is in Christ. And I affirm that the Bible clearly teaches that **"To be in Christ is to be in Church"** by being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ and by being added into His Church, which was purchased by His blood own blood.

We know that the Bible says that those who have been reconciled unto God by the blood of Christ are saved and they are the members of the Church (The body, which is purchased with the blood of Christ Eph 2:13-18). Bible also teaches that those who have been baptized into Christ for the remission of sins will enter into Christ and at the very same moment they are added by the Lord into His Church (Acts 2:38, 41,47).

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"Christ Shed his blood to Purchase the Church" (Acts 20:28).

The Bible teaches that, when we were dead in our trespasses and sins, Christ died for us and we have redemption through His blood (Eph 2:1, 2,5, 1:7). We are washed and justified by the blood of Jesus Christ and we are reconciled with God by His own blood (Rom 5:9-10). When we have no relationship with God, we have no hope and we have been living in this world without knowing God it means man is helpless to reconcile us unto God (Eph 2:12, Rom 5:9-10). Christ paid ransom on behalf of our sins. Christ Jesus our Lord savior said that in Matthew 20:28, *"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."*

Also in I Tim 2:6 Paul writes to Timothy that Christ gave a ransom for many people.

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The Bible says that we were redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ (Eph 1:7, I Pet 1:18) and we were sanctified and cleansed from our sins through the blood of Jesus Christ (Heb 13:11-12, Rev 1: 5). He paid ransom on behalf of our sins, and He purchased us with His own blood (Acts 20:28, Eph 1: 7,14, Tit 2:14, I Pet 1: 19, 2:9).

In the explanations of this Book **"To be in Christ is to be in the Church"**, I affirm that those who have been saved from their sins and being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and their sins will be forgiven and cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ and the Lord adds them into His Church (Acts 2:38, 41,47).

The Church (which was purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ) is the people who have been sanctified by the blood of Jesus Christ and they were called out (Ecclesia = the Church) people from the darkness of this world to be sanctified from their sins (I Cor 1: 1,2, I Pet 2:9) and were forgiven from their sins by the blood of Jesus Christ (Eph 1:7, I Pet 1: 18,19). They were the saved people from their sins by being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. They were added by the Lord Himself to His Church which was purchased with His own blood (Mk 16:16, Acts 2:38, 4:47, Eph 1:7,14, Tit 2:14, I Pet 1:19, 2:9, Rev 5:9).

In the book of Acts chapter 20 verse 28, Apostle Paul speaks to the elders of the Church in Ephesus

"Take heed unto yourselves and all the flock, over which the Holy Spirit made you overseers, to feed the Church of the Lord which He purchased with His own blood "

Many scriptures in the Bible says that we are redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ (Eph 1:7, 2:13, Rom 5:8,9).

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Again Paul in his letter to Titus chapter 2 verse 14.

"Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous of good deeds".

In these words of Paul says, Christ gave Himself to sanctify us and to redeem us from our sins and died for us. And He purchased us with His own blood by paying ransom on behalf of our sins and He make us in his own possession (Mat 2:28, I Tim 2:6).

Peter makes it clear in his first epistle to the scattered Christians, that those (Christians) who are the people of the Church of Christ are the redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ but not of silver or gold or any such thing. Peter affirmed that

"Knowing that you were not redeemed with the perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from forefather, but with precious blood as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ"(I Pet 1:18-19).

In other words of Peter we can understand man can not redeem Himself by paying penalty of silver or gold for his sins (II Cor 19:1-7). He cannot save himself with sacrifice of animals (Ps 50:4-8, Heb 10:4). And we know that man cannot save himself by sacrificing another human being because all men in this world are sinners, so it is not acceptable (Rom 3:10,23). But the author of the book of Hebrews through the Holy Spirit said that there was no forgiveness of sins without shedding of the blood.

"And according to the law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness"(Heb 9:22, Lev 17:11).

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In the Old Testament times God required animals sacrifice or blood offering to atone for mans sin. In the Law of mosses, though the Jews were given numerous regulations that involved the use of blood.

"For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls for it, in the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement" (Lev 17: 11).

In the Old Testament the Jews were commanded to perform numerous animal sacrifices. All the sacrificial blood offerings offered in the Old Testament were for the forgiveness of sins and they offered the animals which were with out blemish and spotless as a substitution for their sins.

All through the Old Testament law one reads again and again animals being offered for the forgiveness of sins. Every year on the Day of Atonement, the High Priest make atonement for the sins of the whole congregation and for himself with the blood of unblemished and spotless animals. The blood from the bull was sprinkled at the mercy seat in the tabernacle as was the blood form a goat (Heb 1:7-10, Lev 16:5,10,16,21,30,33). But there was only one real problem with the blood sacrifices in the Old Testament. They not thoroughly and eternally save Jewish people, but in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year (Heb 10:1-3). I affirm that the Bible teaches that there is no redemption an all to man by these animals sacrifice (Psa 50:8-11, Heb 10:4). Since they offered animals to God as a substitution for their sins, there was no obedience in their offerings as they were doing sin again and again (Heb 10:4-9).

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Bible teaches that man cannot save himself with animal sacrifices even the High priest in the old testament, since he himself was a sinner offered a animal for himself and could not save himself or others.

The author of the book of Hebrews again said...

" For it is impossible for the blood of the bulls to take away sins"
(Heb 10:4, Psa 50:8-11).

But the Bible says that shedding of blood is needful to make offering to atone for the man's sins. A perfect sacrifice was needed. But since the blood of any animal's could not take away sins, and since man himself was sinner could not save himself by the sacrifice of another human being. All men would likewise be blemished with sins and therefore unacceptable (Rom 3:10,23). If any one helps to man, it must be God. Only He can provide the remedy for sin (Jn 3:6, Rom 8-10).

Coming into the new testament the son of God, the immortal God and the eternal God became human and eternal being has shared flesh and blood as human being to redeem mankind from sin and its consequences (Heb 2:14). Jesus Christ came into this world as a high priest and He made atonement for our sins not with blood as an unblemished (Heb 9:12, 7:26, I Pet 1:19). A substitution that is without blemish and spotless was arranged to atone for blemished and spotless was arranged to atone for man's sins. Do you remember the words of John the Baptist first referred to Jesus..." BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD, WHICH TAKETH AWAY SINS OF THE WORLD" (Jn 1:29). Jesus Christ Himself said that He Himself shed His blood for the forgiveness of sins of

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every body (Mat 26:28). We know that Christ as an offering offered Himself; died and shed His blood for the forgiveness of sins of many as a substitution lamb in the place of every sinner of this world (Mat 26:28: Heb 9:28). Christ had fulfilled the will of God and He did offer according to the law through the offering of His flesh and blood and He sanctified us (Heb 10:10). He purchased us with His own blood by paying ransom on behalf of our sins and He makes us His own possession (Mat 20:28, I Tim 2:6).

John said " But if walk in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship with another, and blood of Jesus Christ His son cleanse us from all sins" (I Jn 1:7). Again in Rev 1:5 he says "And from Jesus faithful witness the first thing from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood".

In these words, John explains that Jesus Christ the Son of God cleanses us from our sins by His blood. He gathers together all the sinners of this world and called them from the darkness of this world into His light and He makes us a royal priest hood in His kingdom (I Pet 2:9, Col 1:13).

Again John in Revelation chapter 5 and verse 9 & 10 says
"*...Thou were slain, and hast redeemed us to God with thy blood out of every man from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. And thou have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign upon the earth*".

In these words John explains that Jesus Christ purchased us with His own blood by paying ransom on behalf of our sins and He makes us

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in His possession.

Did Christ shed His blood in vain? In the book of Acts chapter 20 verse 28, the words of Apostle Paul to the elders of the Church in Ephesus.

"Take heed to yourselves and all the flock over which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers to feed the Church of God which He hath purchased with His own blood".

This scripture teaches that the Church was bought with blood of Christ. In the studies of our economics subject we learn by the standard at fair trade exchange we learned that any thing purchased should be worth the value of piece paid. The price paid for the Church was the blood of Jesus Christ. Therefore if the purchased price equals the value of the purchased possession, the Church is just important to our salvation as Christ's precious blood. We learn that Jesus Christ shed His blood for two reasons

- i. To purchase the Church (Acts 20:28) and
- ii. For the remission of sins (Mat 26: 28).

In the explanation of this lesson **"To be in Christ is to be in Church"**, I affirm that all those who have been saved by the blood of Jesus Christ, and baptized in the name of Jesus Christ of remission of sins are purchased with Christ's own blood to present her as a pure virgin, to be betrothed to Him as a beautiful bride (The Church which was purchased with Christ own blood). We know that the Bible teaches that all those who are saved from there sins by being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, were added to the Church (Which

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was purchased with Christ own blood) by Lord Himself (Acts 2:38, 41:47, 20:28). The Jews on the day of Pentecost benefited by the blood by being in what the blood brought, that is the Church.

Let's have an illustration given by Bro. Johnny Ramsay one of our Church of Christ Brother from America ... Let us suppose that it is the coldest day of the year. You pass by a street corner and see a young boy standing in there, in thin scanty clothing. His teeth are chattering and he is turning purple of the freezing weather. You have compassion on him and hand him 50 dollars saying "Son go over there to the clothing store and buy yourselves some clothes before you freeze to death ". He gratefully accepts the money for the clothing heads for the store as you depart. Two hours later you pass the same way the same corner. Much to your surprise, the boy still stands there still in his inadequate clothing icicles in his hair and piled up high by his side you see 50 dollars worth of warm clothing. He is none the better in spite of your generosity for he failed to realize that he would only profit by being in the clothing your money had purchased. You had given him money to provide warmth and clothing the boy's only hope for getting warm was to get in the clothing. Let us apply this principle to our lesson. Christ shed His blood for the remission of sins (Mt 26: 28, Eph 1:7) and to purchase, the Church (Acts 20: 28) we benefit from his blood by being in the Church or the purchased possession. Are you living in the purchased possession?

We know that the Bible teaches that salvation is in Christ (II Tim 2:10) and **"To be in Christ is to be in His Church"**. I affirm the Bible teaches that it is impossible to "get into salvation" without "getting into

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Christ" and that it is impossible for one to "get into Christ" without getting into the Church.

The bible teaches that no one living today can be saved from his sins without being in the purchased possession or in the Church of Christ. I am not ashamed of saying that every person who is baptized in the name of Jesus Christ is added by the Lord Himself to the Church for which He died and they are they are the members of Church of Christ, Christians only and nothing more. They do not become "Lutheran Christians", "Methodist Christians", and "Baptist Christians". They become just Christians nothing more. I affirm that salvation is in that one Church (Which was purchased with Christ's own blood) and no one living today can be saved from his sins without becoming a member of the Church of Christ.

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Chapter – 3

THE CHURCH IS THE BODY OF CHRIST

We will see some other more important scriptures to explain "To be in the body of Christ", (The Church for which Jesus died). Bible teaches that the Church is referred to as the body of Christ as we saw in many scriptures (Col 1:18-24, Eph 1:22-23, 2:14-16,5:23). Apostle Paul by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit states...

"He (Christ) is also head of the body, the Church He is the beginning, the first born from the dead, so that He Himself might come to have first place" (Col 1:18).

Paul further stated...

"Who now recognized in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which behind of the applications of Christ in my flesh for His body's sake, which is the Church"(Col 1:24).

We learn from, these words of Paul inspired to the Church at Colossi, that the Church is the spiritual body of Christ over which He rules as head. This passage explains that the Church for which Jesus died is living under the headship of Christ it means living under the leadership of Christ, but not of, Luther, Calvin, Davadas Ayyagaru or any others. Therefore those who are saved by the Christ is not the head for them those who are living in the domination today.

I affirm that, Bible teaches us that Christ is the head of the Church, which is His body. This proves that the Church is essential for our salvation. Apostle Paul stated to the Church at Ephesus in this regard that we are reconciled in the one body, the Church.

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"For He Himself is our peace... and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross there by putting to death the enmity" (Eph 2:14-16).

To reconcile means bring us back in harmony with God. When we had no peace with God, when we had no relationship with God and when we were very far off from God by our sins, Christ died for us, shed His blood to reconcile with God (Rom 5:9-10). We know that the Bible teaches that those who are reconciled with God are the saved persons and are members of that one body (The Church).

Another scripture concerning Christ and His Church or His body as in Eph 1:22-23...

"For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is head of the body".

This verse explains us that the salvation is in that reconciled body (the Church) only. I affirm that the Bible teaches no one living today can be saved from his sins without being reconciled into the one body the Church for which Jesus died.

I affirm that Bible teaches that without being in the body you are not a Christian. We know that the Church is the body of Christ (Eph 1:22-23) and the body is His Church (Col 1:18). I am affirming that the Bible teaches that there is one God, one Lord, one spirit, one hope one faith, one baptism and one body (The Church Eph 4:4-6). Thus since there is one and only one body, that one body is the Church of Christ, it follows that there is one and only one Church is...

I. The only Church, which was planned by God (Eph 3:10-11),

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- II. The only Church, which was prophesied in the Old Testament (Isa 2:1-4),
- III. The only Church which Jesus promised to build (Mat 16:18),
- IV. The only Church which belong to Jesus(Mat 16:18),
- V. The only Church which the Lord adds those who are being saved (Acts 2:41-47),
- VI. The only Church which was purchased with the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28) and
- VII. The only Church the entering of which means that one has become a Christian.

Apostle Paul said that in Romans chapter 12 and vs. 4-5....

" For as we have many members do not have the some function, so we being many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another".

From the above words of Paul we can learn that we all are Christians, we build up the body of Christ. We know that there is only one body (The Church of Christ). The Bible teaches that all who are being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins are saved and they are added by Him into that one body (Church of Christ, Acts 2:38,41,47) as many members of that one body (The Church Rom 12:5) and Christ is the head of that one body (The Church) over which He rules as head that is the Church.

We know that the Bible teaches that the Church which was purchased with the blood of Christ was built up of many members, that those who are penitent believers by being baptized into the Christ are living in Christ, and they put forth Christ (Rom 6:3-5, Gal 3:27). The bible

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teaches all that many believers by being baptized into Christ are made up a building or the temple of God and they are "in Christ".

Apostle Paul wrote to the Church at Corinth in his first epistle " *Do you not know that you are the temple of God and the spirit of God dwells in you?* " (I Cor 3:16). Paul further stated to the Ephesians "*In whom the whole building, being joined together grows into a Holy Temple in the Lord in whom you also are built together for a habitation of God in the spirit*" (Eph 2:21-22).

Paul made it clear on 1st epistle to young Timothy chapter 3 verse 15 "*But if I am delayed I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God which is the Church of living God the pillar and ground of the truth* ". The temple, which was built up of many Christians, was the Church. The word of God says Christians are the living stones and they are, built together into the temple of God.

Apostle Peter affirmed that we (Christians) are built together into the temple of God as living stones.

"You also, as living stone, are being built up as a spiritual house, a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ"(I Pet 2:5).

Jesus Christ promised to build that only one Church, who is the body of Christ, and He did build it. Jesus Christ is the foundation and chief corner stone (Mat 16:18, Acts 2:1-4, Isa 28:16-17, I Cor 3:11, Eph 2:20) and Christ purchased it with His own blood (Acts 20:28).

The Bible teaches that all those who have been baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins are saved by Jesus Christ and are added by Him into that one body (The Church of Christ Acts 2:38, 41,47).

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All that many members of that one body (The Church for which Jesus died and shed His own blood is the foundation, Rom 12:5) are built up as the temple of god, the Church (I Cor 3:16, Eph 2:21,22, I Tim 3:15, I Pet 2:5). All that they were built as the Church and being members of the Church of Christ were "in Christ" it means that all who were in Christ were built as the Church which was purchased with Christ's own blood and without being members of the Church of Christ, they were not subjects in the body of Christ. The word all that they were "in Christ" build as the Church and to be in Christ is to be in His body, which is the Church of Christ. I affirm that without being members of His body and the Church being in Christ and they are out of Christ.

Apostle John said "IN HIM WAS LIFE AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN" (John1: 4).

If you were not in Christ and not in the Church means you are in the place of life and you were not in His light also. Jesus Christ gave His life and flesh and blood to give us life which is the light of men and which life as the Father has life in Himself as the son has life in Himself (John 10:10-11, 1:4, 5:26). If we walk in that light we will have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and we will have the newness of life and fellowship with God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ (I John 1:3-4, Rom 6:4). We know that those who have been baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins were added by Lord into His Church and that they were in Christ and on the Church (Acts 2:38, 41, 47).

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We know that the Bible teaches that the Church is the body of Christ (Col 1:18, Eph 1:22-24, Col 1:24) and Christ is the head of that one body. The Bible teaches that all the penitent saved believers are the members of the one body, the Church for which Jesus died, if you have no relationship with His body, the Church. Any part of our physical body's life depends upon the circulation of the blood. If any part of our body cut down from the body, it has no connection with the body and there will be no circulation of the blood and it has no life. So if you have no connection with the body (The Church for which Jesus died) of Christ and if you are living apart from that one body you are living out of Christ and you have no life. Apostle John affirmed that truth in his first epistle...

" And this is the testimony that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His son. He who the son has life, he who does not have the Son of God hoes not have life " (I Jn 5:11-12).

We know that the Bible teaches that salvation is in Christ. As Apostle Paul said...

"Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory " (II Tim 2:10).

I affirm that the Bible teaches all that many pertinent saved believers by being baptized into Christ for the remission of sins were added by the Lord into His body (The Church) and were built up in the temple of God, the Church (Acts 2:35,41,47, Rom 12:5, I Cor 3:16, Eph 2:21-22, I Tim 3:15). We know that the Bible teaches that since no one living today can be saved form his sins without being added into the body, which is the Church of Christ. In short there is no salvation with out becoming a member of the Church of Christ. We know that the Bible teaches that **"To**

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be in Christ is to be in His body", The Church. I affirm that the Bible teaches that "**To be in Christ is to be in His body**". I affirm that the Bible teaches that one enters into Christ when he is baptized into Him (Rom 6:3-4, Gal 3:27). I affirm that those who have been entered into Christ by being baptized into Him were "in Christ" and they were added by Him into His Church and they were saved and they were only " in the Church " which was purchased by the blood of Christ.

In the New Testament every person who was baptized in the name of Jesus entered one and the same Church (the body of Christ, Eph 4:4-6, I Cor 12:13). The Bible teaches that there are no Christians out side of that one Church and there are no Christians who are not members of Church of Christ. I affirm that the Bible teaches that everyone must enter into the Church of Christ to be "in Christ" to be saved. So Apostle Paul affirmed...

"For as the body is one and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also in Christ, For by one spirit are we all baptized into one body weather we be Jews orgentiles, whether we be bond or free and have been all made to drink into one spirit " (I Cor 12:12-13).

This passage teaches that even though there are many members it is only one body. It further affirms that all who enter that one body (The one Church the one purchased by the blood of Christ Acts 20:28) are the members of the one body. It is essential that every one must be baptized in to that one body (The Church of Christ) and it is essential that every saved person is a member of that one true Church. Are you want to become a member of that one body (The Church of Christ) are you want to be saved eternally by being on the body of Christ? Then obey the

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commands of Christ and wash away your sins in the blood of Jesus Christ by being baptized into that one body (The Church of Christ).

Chapter – 4

ESSENTIALITY OF BAPTISM

So far we have seen the essentiality of Christ and the Church to our salvation. The Bible teaches that all saved persons will join in that one true Church. It is the truth that no one can become a Christian by obeying the human plan of salvation, and that all that enters into a denominational Church can not be saved. Every penitent believer in Jesus Christ can be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ and he does, he can not know that the Lord will have added him to His Church (Acts 2:41-47) and that he belongs to Christ only. In short that he will be member of the Church of Christ for which Jesus died and he will be just Christian, not any man made denominational Christian like a Lutheran Christian Methodist Christian of any other kind of hyphenated Christian, It is essential to know the truth... Who ever is baptized in Christ into His body for the remission of sins is a member of the Church of Christ.

I affirm that the Bible teaches that there is one way to enter to Christ and into the Church (The body which is the Church of Christ for which Jesus died) is to be born of water and spirit (Jn 3:5) by being baptized into Christ. I affirm that all men who are being baptized into Jesus Christ for the remission of sins becomes a Christians become members of the Church of Christ and become Children of God.

Some people who have been taught by human doctrines and were baptized in a denomination may claim that they are the saved persons, they are the believers and they are the children of God. As we are

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members of the Church of Christ we never feel shameful of saying there are some Christians who are claiming that they are the saved believers and the children of God who are not the members of the Church of Christ are not the saved believers and are not the children of God.

I am affirming that the Bible teaches that the Church is referred to as the house of God which means the family of God (1 Tim 3:15, Heb 2:6, Eph 2:19, 3:15). We know that the Bible teaches without being members of the Church of Christ we cannot be saved. We know that the Bible teaches all that saved persons by being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins were the members the members of the Church of Christ and they were the Children of God (Acts 2:38,41,47, Gal 3:26-28, Eph 3:19-22).

The Bible clearly teaches that all sinners come into fellowship with God and faithful Christianity when they actually become child of God by being baptized into Christ, that is when they are baptized into the body of Christ (Church of Christ 1 Cor 12:13). We know that all saved were the Children of God. Those who are claiming that they are the children of God without being members of God's family (The Church of Christ, for which Jesus died) are the children out of God's family. One who baptized in Christ out of God's family (The Church of Christ) is living out of his family. I affirm that the Bible teaches that there is no separation to God out of God's family. God has no any other Children out of His family. The Bible plainly teaches that no believer is a Child of God until he has been born again by being baptized into Christ (Jn 3:3-5, Gal 3:26-27). Therefore a sinful person who live in His family that means who does not born again into God's family

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must be born-again to become a children of God (Jn 3:3-5, Gal 3:26). No believer is saved if he is not yet baptized (Mk 16:16). The Bible teaches that all those who have been baptized in the name of Jesus Christ by immersed in water are the believers and the Children of God. So that their sins might be washed away by the blood of Jesus Christ (Acts 10:47-48, Eph 1:7). This means that he realized that he is saved by the blood of Jesus Christ (Eph 1:7) not of the water. So that his sins might be washed away by the blood of Jesus Christ in the baptism like the death of Christ (Rom 6:3-5). One who is baptized into Christ by immersion involves that he might have been died with Christ (in a grave of water) and might have been raised with Christ with newness of life (being raised from grave of water of baptism) as a child of God or a new born babe in Gods family (Rom 6:3-5, Gal 3:26-27, Col 2:12).

We know that the bible teaches that the salvation is in Christ (II Tim 2:10) and I affirm that the Bible teaches that "To be in Christ is to be in the Church" for which He died. We know that there is only one way to enter Christ is to be baptized into the one body (I Cor 12:12-13) which is the Church of Christ (Eph 1:22-23, Col 1:18) since the Bible clearly teaches that is one God, one Lord one Spirit, one hope and faith, one baptism and one body (Eph 4:4-6). Thus since that is one and only one body that one body is the Christ of Christ is follows that there is one and only one Church which was purchased with the blood of Christ is follows that there is one and only one Church which was purchased with the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28) is

- (a) The only Church which was planned by God (Eph 3:10,11),
- (b) The only Church, which was prophesied in the Old Testament (Isa 2:1-4),

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- (c) The only Church which Jesus promised to build it (Mat 16:18),
- (d) The only Church which belongs to Jesus Christ (Mat 16:18),
- (e) The only Church to which the Lord adds those who are being saved by being baptized into Him (Acts 2:41:47),
- (f) The only Church which was purchased by the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28) and
- (g) The only Church in which entering means that one has become Christian.

We know that the Bible teaches that the Church is referred to as follows

1. Bride of Christ (Eph 5:22-33),
2. Body of Christ (I Cor 12:13. Eph 1:22-23, Col 1:18,24),
3. Temple of God (I Cor 3:9,16, Eph 2:21-22, I Tim 3:15, Heb 3:6, I Pet 2:5) and
4. The family of God (I Tim 3:15, Heb 3:6, Eph 2:19, 3:15).

We know that the Bible teaches that,

- a) Christ gave Himself for the Church,
- b) He Shed His blood to purchase it,
- c) He rules over it (Church) as its head and
- d) He will save the Church one-day.

We know that there is only one way to be in Christ and to be in the Church is to be born of water and spirit by being baptized into the body (The Church of Christ for which Jesus died and shed His own blood, Jn 3:3-5, I Cor 12:12-13).

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We know that no one living today can be saved from his sins without becoming a member of Church of Christ. If any body wants to be betrothed with Christ, to be married with Christ for the remission of sins in the blood of Jesus Christ in the acts of baptism in the body of Christ.

"If any one who was baptized out of His body, who were living out of Gods family and those who have been ceased to be member of the Church of Christ when joined a denomination, he would have to be baptized again if he came to himself " repent and wanted to live a faithful life once more.

The Bible teaches that those who were joined in a denomination are rejecting the one faith, one body and one doctrine of Christ. The Bible also teaches that to reject the command of Christ is sin. So all who enter into a denomination until death is sin and so worshipping God in denominational way is vain which is not authorized by the Bible is sin and they will be lost.

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CONCLUSION

The Bible teaches that, salvation is in Christ (II Tim 2:10, Acts 2:12). The Bible also teaches that "**To be in Christ is to be in His Church**". We know that there is only one way to enter into Christ that is to be baptized into Christ (Rom 6:8, Gal 3:27). Bible teaches that all those who were baptized into Christ for the remission of sins were saved and they were added by Lord Himself in His Church (Acts 2:38,41,47). I am affirming that no one can be saved without becoming a member of the Church of Christ. All those who were baptized into Christ were in Church of Christ and Church of Christ has saved only. To know the truth "**To be in Christ is to be in His Church**" we have to recall the words of Paul to the Church at Corinth...

"For by one spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or gentiles whether we be bond or free, and have been all made to drink into one spirit"(I Cor 12:13).

Thus since there is only one body (Eph 4:4-6) that one body is the Church of Christ and thus it follows there is one and only one Church (Which was purchased with the blood of Christ, Acts 20:28) is the one body (Eph 1:22-23, Col 1:18,24) and to be baptized into that one body is essential to our salvation.

Bible teaches that there is no salvation out of Christ and no one living today can be saved from his sins without becoming a member of the Church of Christ. We know that the Bible teaches that those who have been baptized into that one body (The Church of Christ, which was

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purchased with His own blood, Acts 20:28) are the members of the Church of Christ and they were "in Christ" only (I Cor 12:13, Gal 3:27). I am affirming that every one must realize the truth "**To be in Christ is to be in His Church**" (The Church for which Jesus died and shed His own blood). (Eph 5:25, Rom 5:89, Heb 9:28m 10:10, Acts 20:28). One who is saved out of the Church of Christ was saved without being in Christ and they were not in Christ and it is impossible to one man to be saved eternally without being in Christ or in His body (the Church of Christ for Which Jesus Died). So the membership of the Church (The body) is essential to be saved eternally.

Apostle Paul states that Christ is the saviour of the body " *For the husband is the head of the wife even as the Christ is the head of the Church and He is the saviour of the body*" (Eph 5:23).

Again Paul affirmed in this regard " *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout with the noise of the arch angel and with the trumpet of God and the dead in Christ shall raise first* " (I Thess 4:16, I Cor 15:22-23). Paul in this passages talking about the second resurrection of dead.

Bible teaches that all those who were died in Christ by being baptized into Christ, buried with Christ (in the grave of water by immersion) and might have been raised with Christ Having with the newness of life (Rom 6:3-5 < Col 2:12) and it is the first resurrection. The Bible also teaches that all those who were died in Christ and raised with Christ in first resurrection by being baptized into Christ Shall be raised first into the

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resurrection of life to inherit the eternal life in second resurrection (Jn 2:28-29, Dan 12:2, I Thes 4:16, I Cor 15:22-23,53, Mat 25:31:46). In order to spend eternity in heaven with God's eternal life, every Christian must be faithfully to Christ until death in the Church (The body of Christ for which Jesus died and shed His blood) for which Christ is the savior one day (Rev 2:10, 14:13, 22:15).

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About Author

Bro M. Devanand is diligent worker and evangelist. He is in Lord's work for many years and laboring for his glory. Many believers have been edified by his teachings. As gospel minister, he completed his training in evangelism from Preachers Training School at Kakinada. He is currently working in eastern parts of Andhra Pradesh, India. He is also working as a faculty for WINGS Bible School at Ongole Church of Christ, K.P. Bus Stand.