

# Can One Be Saved Outside of the Church?

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## Introduction

1. Ephesians 5:23-25
2. This question has been long disputed in the religious world.
3. The popular idea is that one is saved then he joins the church.
4. This has led to the idea that the church is unimportant.
5. Some say that one can stay at home read their Bible, pray, live a good moral life and go to heaven, without being a member of the church.
6. Is this true?
7. Let us study from our Bible and see what the answer is.

## II Discussion

1. The Cross of Christ says no one cannot be saved outside of the church!
  - a. The Cross of our Lord is directly related to the subject of the church Acts 20:28; Ephesians 2:16
  - b. Did our Lord shed His precious blood to purchase a non-essential?
  - c. We cannot separate the blood, the cross, and the church!
2. The descriptive language say that no one can be saved outside of the church.
  - a. The "church" means the called out Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 3:11
  - b. The church is the body of Christ Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4; Colossians 1:18
  - c. The church is the kingdom of Christ Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 12:28; John 18:36
  - d. The church is the household of faith Galatians 6:10; 1 Timothy 3:15; Romans 8:17
  - e. The church is the temple of the Lord 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; Ephesians 2:20-23
3. The prophets of old say no, one cannot be saved outside of the church
  - a. Isaiah prophesied that salvation would be in Zion Isaiah 2:2-3; 46:13
  - b. The Hebrew writer identifies Zion with the church Hebrews 12:22-23
    - i. Which are written in heaven, who are these
    - ii. If not written in heaven then you are lost Revelation 20:15; 21:27
  - c. The prophet Isaiah answered our question 2700 years ago.
4. The plan of salvation says no, a person cannot be saved outside the church
  - a. The Lord gave this plan Hebrews 5:8-9; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-47
    - i. It was to bring salvation to the soul Romans 6:16-18; 1 Peter 1:22
    - ii. To disobey this plan is doom 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9
  - b. It was preached on Pentecost with great results Acts 2:37-41
  - c. Those who obeyed were added by the Lord to the church Acts 2:47
    - i. It was not an act done by others, there is no voting.
    - ii. There is no exception no soul is left outside
    - iii. The same scripture that prove one is saved is also used to show that one is added to the church Galatians 3:26-27; 1 Corinthians 12:13

## III Conclusion

1. Jesus is the only Savior Acts 4:12
2. When He saves He then adds them to the church Acts 2:47

3. Let none of us who are saved thin we can do without membership in the church.
4. The church is not a religious luxury added by men but it is a divine necessity for everyone

Source: sermon preached 1993