

Why Be A Member Of The Church Of Christ?

BECAUSE IT TEACHES THE REVEALED PLAN OF SALVATION

Spring 2012 Gospel Meeting

INTRODUCTION

- ✘ We are speaking this week of the **UNIQUE** aspects of the Lord's church
- ✘ What are the characteristics of God's unique organization?
- ✘ God has revealed a specific plan of salvation and the Lord's church is unique in teaching it.

WHAT IS SALVATION?

- ✘ We will speak in detail on Friday night
- ✘ A brief description
 - + Matthew 14:25-33 – “Lord, save me”
 - + Acts 16:25-30 – “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”
 - + Matthew 1:18-21 – “it is he that shall save his people from their sins”

WHAT IS SALVATION?

- ✘ A brief description (continued)
 - + I John 3:4 – “sin is the transgression of the law” (KJV)
 - + James 1:25 – “the perfect law”

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY “REVEALED”?

- ✘ Law must have come from somewhere
 - + Romans 13:1-2 – “be in subjection to the higher powers”
 - + I Corinthians 2:6-11 – “unto us God revealed them through the Spirit”
 - + Romans 1:16-17 – “the power of God unto salvation”
 - + Ephesians 3:3-4 – “when ye read, ye can perceive”

TEACHING IS A PART OF THE CHURCH'S DUTIES

- ✘ John 13:12-14 – “Ye call me Teacher ... for so I am”
 - + The Master Teacher (cf. I Peter 5:1-4)
- ✘ Matthew 28:19-20 – “teaching them”
- ✘ II Timothy 2:2 – “teach others”
- ✘ II Timothy 3:16 – “scripture ... for teaching ... for instruction”

GOD HAS A PLAN

- × **Seen throughout the Bible**
 - + Genesis 2:20-24 – “they shall be one” (cf. Matthew 19:5-6)
 - + Exodus 25:40 – “after their pattern” (cf. Hebrews 8:5b)

GOD HAS A PLAN

- × **God’s plan regarding the church**
 - + Ephesians 3:10-11 – “through the church ... the eternal purpose”

GOD HAS A PLAN

- × **God’s plan regarding mankind**
 - + II Timothy 1:8-10 – “saved us ... according to his own purpose”

GOD HAS A PLAN

- × **God’s will save us according to His plan**
 - + Hebrews 5:9 – “the author of eternal salvation”

GOD’S PLAN

- × **Hear**
 - + Matthew 13:13-17 – “they hear not, neither do they understand ... understand with their heart”
 - + Acts 15:7 – “hear the word of the gospel”

GOD’S PLAN

- × **Believe**
 - + Acts 16:30-31 – “Believe on the Lord Jesus”
 - + Acts 8:37 – “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God”
 - + Romans 10:9 – “believe in thy heart that God raised him from the dead”
 - + But ... be careful
 - × II Thessalonians 2:11 – “believe a lie”

GOD'S PLAN

- ✦ **Repent**
 - + Acts 3:19 – “turn again”
 - + Acts 26:20 – “turn to God”
 - + II Corinthians 7:9-10 – “repentance unto salvation”

GOD'S PLAN

- ✦ **Confess**
 - + Philippians 2:9-10 – “every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord”
 - + I Timothy 6:12 – “the good confession”
 - + Hebrews 13:15 – “make confession to his name”
 - + Romans 10:8-10 – “confess with thy mouth Jesus as Lord ... confession is made unto salvation”

GOD'S PLAN

- ✦ **Baptism**
 - + I Peter 3:18-21 – “which also after a true likeness doth now save you, even baptism”
 - + Romans 6:3-4 – “buried therefore with him through baptism”
 - + Mark 16:15-16 – “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved”

THE PLAN OF SALVATION

	Hear	Believe	Repent	Confess	Baptism	Saved
Pentecost Acts 2:14-41	X		X		X	X
Samaritans Acts 8:5-13	X	X			X	X Acts 11:18
Eunuch Acts 8:35-39	X	X		X	X	X
Saul Acts 9:17-19, 26	X				X	X
Cornelius Acts 10:34-36; 11:14	X	X			X	X
Lydia Acts 16:13-15	X				X	
Jailor Acts 16:32	X	X	X		X	X

CONCLUSION

- ✦ **The plan we have just examined:**
 - + Will lead all to salvation
 - + Is revealed in God's Word
 - + Is taught by God's church
- ✦ **The Lord's church, the church of Christ, is the ONLY church that teaches God's plan in its purity and simplicity**
- ✦ **Acts 4:12 – “in none other is there salvation”**