

“You Think You are the Only  
Ones Going to Heaven!”

# “You Think You are the Only Ones Going to Heaven!”

- A statement that says more about the speaker than it does about the Christian
  - The speaker doesn’t understand heaven, the church, or God
- Stock answer: “Only members of churches of Christ are going to heaven.”
  - The speaker doesn’t understand heaven, the church, or God

# “You Think You are the Only Ones Going to Heaven!”

- Heaven is going to be populated with many more than just members of churches of Christ
  - Three Beings of Deity
  - Four beings of power around the throne
  - The 24 holy elders
  - An uncountable host of angels
  - The righteous from the Patriarchal age
  - Righteous Jews under the Law of Moses
  - Gentiles who followed the faith of Abraham during the Mosaic age
  - A vast multitude of children who died before reaching the age of accountability
  - The millions of children murdered yearly in abortion clinics
  - The persons who benefited from the mercy of God during the time of ignorance before the Christian dispensation
- I suspect that members of churches of Christ will be a minority group in heaven!

# The Church In Heaven Vs. Local Congregations

- Local churches consist of Christians at varying levels of development and devotion
  - Some are faithful and some are not
  - Some will be faithful till death and some will not
  - Some are serious about growing and working and some are not
- The church directory is not a list of Christians going to heaven, any more than the directory of churches of Christ imply all congregations listed are sound in doctrine

# The Church In Heaven Vs. Local Congregations

- Rev. 3:4-5 - “You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. 5 He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.”
- Rev. 2:14, 17 - “But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality... 17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it”

# The Church In Heaven Vs. Local Congregations

- In the end of the Dispensation of Christ, all of the saved of all time will be the church universal glorified in heaven, for all faithful Christians in sound congregations will be joined together with the Lord, along with those who died in that condition
  - 1Thes. 4:14-17 - “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

# The Church In Heaven Vs. Local Congregations

- There will be no unfaithful Christians in the church glorified in heaven
- There will be no professed Christians from unsound congregations or denominations of men in heaven
  - Matt. 7:13-14, 21-23 - “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it... 21 Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'”

# The Church In Heaven Vs. Local Congregations

- The only organization in this world that will exist in the world to come is the church, consisting of the saved glorified in heaven; therefore, the only way to be assured of being numbered among the saved in this dispensation is to be part of that organization in this world.



# Who Is Numbered Among The Saved?

- We are not the judge; God is the Judge
  - James 4:12 - “There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?”
  - Rom. 14:10, 12 - “But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ... 12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.”

# Who Is Numbered Among The Saved?

- God wills that the obedient will be saved
  - Matt. 10:22 - “he who endures to the end will be saved.”
  - 2Thes. 1:8-9 - “In flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power”

# Who Is Numbered Among The Saved?

- Christ's body is the church
  - Col. 1:18 - "And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence."
- There is one body
  - Eph. 4:4 - "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling"
- The saved in Church are those who obeyed Christ, are in His body, and will be saved in Judgment as part of the church glorified in heaven

# Who Is Numbered Among The Saved?

- Some local congregations have members who do not serve Christ; they are not numbered among the saved
- To specifically name faithful members implies that churches who have some in their midst who are in sin
  - 1Cor. 1:2 - “To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord”
  - Phil. 1:1 - “Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons”

# Who Is Numbered Among The Saved?

- 1Cor. 5
- Heb. 10:26-30 - “For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know Him who said, Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord. And again, The LORD will judge His people.”

# Who Is Numbered Among The Saved?

- Those who are saved are known for certain only by God
  - 1John 1:6-7 - “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”
  - 2Tim. 2:19 - “Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: The Lord knows those who are His, and, Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”

# Who Is Numbered Among The Saved?

- Sadly, there will be some assembling with local churches of Christ who are not in the universal Church of Christ, and without repentance they will not go to Heaven
- Simply because one assembles with a local church of Christ that teaches sound doctrine does not assure admittance into Heaven; it does not necessarily mean he is part of the church or that he is saved
- If it is not enough to simply be a member of a local church of Christ to be saved, how much less are one's prospects of being saved outside of the Lord's Church? Zero!

# Who Is Numbered Among The Saved?

- 1Peter 4:17-18 - “For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 Now If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?”