

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE CHURCH (I)

Bobby Liddell

TEXT: Matthew 16:13-19.

THESIS: I am so happy to be able to study, with you, from the Bible, the truth about the church.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Does it really matter if we know the truth about the church, when most do not want the truth--or do not care?

- a. Surely, we want the truth (1 Tim. 2:4; John 8:32).
 - 1) "Attend the church of your choice."
 - 2) "One church is as good as another."
 - 3) "What is truth?" (John 18:38).
- b. Should we be satisfied with man's opinions--when God has spoken (Heb. 1:1-4; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)?
- c. Should we turn for guidance to the doctrines of mere, mortal men (Mat. 15:9)?
- d. KEY: Is the authority what men believe or say (John 12:48)?
 - 1) Many pretend, even promise to tell the truth, but do not--whether intentionally, or ignorantly: "Ye shall not surely die" (Gen. 3:4).
 - 2) I could/how would you know?
 - 3) Anyone can check by using the Bible, and know the truth (John 8:32; 17:17).

2. Does it matter if we know the truth about the church, when most believe one is as good as another--or just do not care?

- a. Is one "savior" as good as another (Acts 4:12)?
- b. Is one "gospel" as good as another (Gal. 1:6-10)?
- c. Is one "doctrine" as good as another (1 Tim. 1:3)?
- d. Is one "church" as good as another--is any church built by man as good as the church built by Christ (Mat. 16:18)?

3. The truth about the church is that it is:

- a. The church of the **SAVED**.
- b. And the church of the **SAVIOR**.
- c. Because it is the church of the **SCRIPTURES**.

DISCUSSION:

I. THE TRUTH IS THE CHURCH-- IS THE CHURCH OF THE SAVED.

A. Where are the saved?

1. Salvation is IN Christ
 - a. Rom. 3:24--redemption that is IN Christ Jesus.
 - b. Eph. 1:3--spir. blessings IN.
 - c. Eph. 1:7--IN whom.
 - d. 2 Tim. 2:10--salvation which is IN Christ Jesus.
2. The TRUTH is that we are saved IN Christ.
 - a. NO promise of salvation OUTSIDE Christ.
 - b. NO ONE is saved OUTSIDE Christ.
 - c. If we want to be saved, we must be IN Christ.
3. TRUTH IS where there is no salvation, there is no hope.
 - a. Saved by hope (Rom. 8:24).
 - b. No hope OUTSIDE Christ (Eph. 2:12).
 - c. No salvation.
4. The location/position of the saved has changed, for they have been:
 - a. Baptized **into** Christ (Gal. 3:26-27).
 - b. Translated **into** the kingdom of Christ (Col. 1:13).
 - c. Brought **into** fellowship with Christ (1 Cor. 1:9--called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord).
 - d. Were in the world, lost in sin, walking in darkness--lost.

B. Why are the saved in the church?

1. They have been called out of the world, into the church by the Gospel--not by the doctrines of men (2 The. 2:14; Rom. 1:16).
2. They have been added to the church, by the Lord (Acts 2:47).
3. The TRUTH is, it was God's plan that salvation be in Christ, and in the church of Christ (Isa. 2; Dan. 2; Dan. 7:13-14; Acts 2; 11:15; Eph. 2; 3:11).

4. ALL Christians are IN the church--because they are in Christ (**Acts 11:26**).

C. Are any (accountable persons) saved outside the church?

1. IF **all** the saved are **added** to the one church--and they are (**Mark 16:16; Acts 2:47**).
2. THEN, **all** the saved are **in** the one church (**Eph. 4:4; Col. 1:18**).
3. AND, it must follow, that none are saved outside the one church.
 - a. Just as there were none saved outside Noah's ark (**Gen. 6-9**)--location.
 - b. There is no salvation in, or by, the gods of men (**Acts 17; Eph. 4:4-6**).
 - c. There is no salvation in, or by, the doctrines of men (**Mat. 15:9; 2 John 9-11**).

D. Salvation is in Christ--in His body.

1. This is why:
 - a. We are here.
 - b. We are working to teach others (**2 Tim. 2:2**).
 - c. I am preaching (**Mark 16:15**).
2. But what about?
 - a. Our being tenderhearted, compassionate, sympathetic--wanting all to be saved?
 - b. People, not in the church, who are nice, friendly, considerate, and do some good things?
 - c. Our wanting so badly that our loved ones and friends might be saved?

**THE TRUTH IS THAT--
SALVATION IS IN THE CHURCH OF THE SAVED.**

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE CHURCH (II)

Bobby Liddell

TEXT: Matthew 16:13-19.

THESIS: I am so happy to be able to study, with you, from the Bible, the truth about the church.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Does it matter if we know the truth about the church, when most believe one is as good as another--or do not care?
 - a. Is one "savior" as good as another (Acts 4:12)?
 - b. Is one "gospel" as good as another (Gal. 1:6-10)?
 - c. Is one "doctrine" as good as another (1 Tim. 1:3)?
 - d. Is one "church" as good as another--is any church built by man as good as the church built by Christ (Mat. 16:18)?
2. The TRUTH about salvation is:
 - a. Salvation is IN Christ (Rom. 3:24).
 - b. There is no salvation OUTSIDE Christ, for there is no hope (Eph. 2:12).
 - c. To be saved, we must get INTO Christ (Gal. 3:26).
3. We are called OUT of the world, by the Gospel (2 The. 2:14).
 - a. When we heed the call of the Gospel "of [our] salvation" (Eph. 1:13), we are saved.
 - b. The Lord adds the saved to His church (Acts 2:47).
 - c. The TRUTH is the church is the church of the SAVED.

DISCUSSION:

I. THE TRUTH IS THE CHURCH--

IS THE CHURCH OF THE SAVIOR.

A. Christ is the Savior--of the church.

1. How do we know--the TRUTH declares it: "HE is the saviour of the body" (Eph. 5:23).
2. "HE is the head of the body" (Col. 1:18). SAME BODY
3. That same passage declares: "The body" is "the church" (Col. 1:18).

B. As Savior, He knows who are saved--and who are not.

1. Christ is THE Savior of THE body, and there is but ONE body (Eph. 4:4).
2. Christ is THE head of THE body, THE church--AND THERE IS BUT ONE CHURCH (Col. 1:18).
3. Does He, as Head, know the members of His Body (1 Cor. 12 [V. 20])? AND THOSE NOT? **ARM.**

C. Christ is the Savior, but not all men are saved.

1. Christ would have all men to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9; Luke 19:10; 1 John 2:2).
2. Only those who hear and do God's will are saved (Acts 10:34-35; Mat. 7:21ff; John 8:24; Rom. 10:17 [H, B, R, C, B, F]).
3. The truth is that ALL those who hear and do God's will are in the church (Acts 2:37-41, 47).

THE TRUTH IS THAT--

THOSE WHO ARE IN THE CHURCH OF THE SAVED ARE IN THE CHURCH OF THE SAVIOR.

II. THE TRUTH IS THE CHURCH-- IS THE CHURCH OF THE SCRIPTURES.

A. In Scripture, there is the TRUTH about the church.

1. Has S. Builder--Mat. 16:18.
2. Has S. Found.--1 Cor. 3:11.
3. S. Place--Acts 2; Isa. 2.
4. S. Time--Isa. 2; Acts 2; 11:15.
5. S. Price--Acts 20:28.
6. S. Name--Acts 11:26.
7. S. Doctrine--2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1 Tim. 1:3.
8. S. Terms of membership--Acts 2:47.
9. S. Worship--John 4:24.

B. One must reject the TRUTH to be in any other church.

1. Man-made name--not defend.
2. Man-made creed--not use Bible to defend.
3. Man-made organiz.--not def.
4. Man-made wor.--not def.

C. Have to give up a lot to be in a man-made church.

1. Give up NT of Christ.
2. Give up Christ of NT.
3. Give up reason and Truth.
4. Give up hope of salvation.
5. Give up soul to Satan.
6. Give up Heaven for Hell.

**THE TRUTH IS THAT--
THE CHURCH OF THE SAVED IS
THE CHURCH OF THE SAVIOR, BECAUSE IT IS
THE CHURCH OF THE SCRIPTURES.**

CONCLUSION:

1. What do with Truth?

- a. Fight against--God's Word will stand.
- b. Become angry (with messenger)--not silence Truth.

2. Will we be honest?

- a. Humbly embrace Truth?
- b. Come out of denom. error?
- c. Forsake all doct. of men?

3. Come to Christ bef. too late (2 The. 1:7-9).

- a. Hear doctrine of Christ.
- b. Believe in Christ.
- c. Repent toward Christ.
- d. Confess faith in Christ.
- e. Be baptized into Christ.
- f. Wear name honors Christ.
- g. Be in church of Christ.
- h. Go, preach Gospel of Christ--so others can be saved by knowing the TRUTH.