



Mike King-Minister

BIBLE TALK

Question: Are members of the church of Christ the only ones going to heaven?

Answer: It is interesting to note that the church was a nameless institution. There are 112 times in the Bible (KJV) where some descriptions appear: "my church," 1 time (Mt. 16:18); "the church" (singular & plural) 12 times (Acts 20:28; I Thess. 2:14); "the church of God" 12 times (I Tim. 3:15); "the churches of the Gentiles" 1 time (Rom. 16:4); "the churches of Christ" 1 time (Rom. 16:16); "churches of the saints" 1 time (I Cor. 14:33); "church of the firstborn" 1 time (Heb. 12:23).

These descriptions show relationship and ownership, but are not names. Ninety-five times out of 112, the New Testament simply spoke of "the church," the "Ekklesia" denoting an assembly. The English use of "church" is derived from the Greek "Kuriakos" meaning, "*belonging to the Lord*" When an attempt to name the church is made, a denomination is formed. The meaning of the word "denomination" is "the act of naming." The term "church of Christ" is an expression to merely recognize its owner.

When pondering this question, Mt. 7:21 comes to mind, "*Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord' shall enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father which is in heaven.*" The Lord built His church (Mt. 16:18), and those who were being saved were "*added to it,*" by the Lord (Acts 2:47). We are to give glory through it (Eph. 3:21). Man cannot expect his "building" to be acceptable (I Cor. 3:11); salvation is found only in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:12). Jesus died for this "**one body**" which is **His church** (Eph. 1:22, 23; Acts 20:28). Our burden is to insure that we belong to the New Testament church!

For inquiries or free Bible study by mail, contact:



New Albany Church of Christ

P.O. Box 148, 511 Hwy 15 S ~ New Albany, MS 38652
nacoc.org ~ 662-534-4649 ~ bibletalk.mlk@gmail.com

