

Go to Church - cont.

thians 10:17; Ephesians 2:16; 4:4; Colossians 3:15).

Yes, Jesus saves, but he saves when we comply with the means of salvation in his body (Ephesians 5:23).

The “church” of God’s people in one location must assemble together regularly to worship God.

The local “church” assembles together (Acts 2:42; 11:26; 14:27; 1 Corinthians 14:23). Some required activities of worship can be done only in the local assembly like partaking of the Lord’s supper and giving our contribution (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:18,20; 16:1-2). This is done by active “members” of his body (Ephesians 4:16; 5:30). And, this “assembling” must not be forsaken (Hebrews 10:24-25).

It is true that we do not go to church to be saved. We obey the gospel of Jesus Christ, we are baptized into the body (church) of Christ, and we live daily as active members of the body (church) of Christ which requires assembling together.

Are you an active member of the body (church) of Christ? If not, you are not saved! - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- People who claim to be broad-minded are actually shallow-minded.
- Why have a knowledge of the truth if you are not going to use it or share it.
- Kindness never goes up in price or down in value.
- Some people are willing to bend their knees in prayer to God, but not bend their wills in obedience to God.

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Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

I Don't Have to Go to Church to Be Saved

When you talk to people about why they do not attend a church service they will often say: "I don't have to go to church to be saved." What they mean by that is they can be a good person and go to heaven without being a member of any church. However, is this what the Bible teaches?

It is certainly true that we do not need to be a member of a man-made church or denomination to be saved. But, do we need to be a member of the Lord's church and assemble for worship regularly with his saints?

I've heard the following in my lifetime that needs to be examined in light of scripture. Some say...

- "I don't have to go to church to be saved."
- "Churches don't save, Jesus does."
- "I can worship God anywhere, I don't need a church."
- "The church building doesn't save you."
- "As long as I believe in God and be a good person, I don't need a church."

These statements are misunderstandings, or excuses, or both. Let's now ask a few questions and see what the Bible says.

Why did Jesus come to build his church if the church is not necessary for salvation (Matthew 16:18)?

Yes, the Lord's church is important and you need to be a member of it. The church was planned before time (Ephesians 3:10) and the church was prophesied in the Old Testament (Isaiah 2; Daniel 2; Joel 2). The church was even purchased with Jesus' blood on the cross (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:25,27,29). This clearly shows that the Lord's church is important.

Can you follow the head without being a part of the body (Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23-24,32; Colossians 1:18,24)?

When people say, "I need Jesus, not a church...", they are actually saying, "I need a head without a body." Jesus without his church is a head without a body and a head without a body is dead.

You cannot reap the benefits of the head (Jesus) without being a member of the body. You cannot be saved by the head without the body of Christ (Ephesians 5:23). One is added to the body of Christ through baptism (Romans 6:3-4;

Galatians 3:26-27; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13).

If we do not need to go to church to be saved, why were we not told this by Jesus or the Apostle Paul?

Think about it. Both Jesus (Matthew 18:17) and Paul (Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 4:17; 7:17; 10:32; 11:16,22; 2 Corinthians 1:1; 11:28; Ephesians 3:21; 5:27; 1 Thessalonians 2:14; 2 Thessalonians 1:4; 1 Timothy 3:5,15) promoted the importance and glory of the church.

Many people today say they don't need to go to church, but this idea doesn't even come from Jesus or Paul! Let's now consider a few biblical points about the church.

The "church" is not a place you go to; the "church" is an assembly of people.

The "church" is people, not a building (Acts 5:11; 8:3 [1 Corinthians 15:9; Galatians 1:13; Philippians 3:5]; 9:31; 12:1; etc.). You don't have to go to a particular building to be saved, but you do have to be a part of a particular saved body of people (Acts 2:38,41,47; 5:14; 11:24; Hebrews 12:23) – the "one body" (Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corin-