

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

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. A statement that says more about the speaker than it does about the Christian
 - 1. The speaker doesn't understand heaven, the church, or God
- B. Stock answer: “Only members of churches of Christ are going to heaven.”
 - 1. The speaker doesn't understand heaven, the church, or God
- C. Heaven is going to be populated with many more than just members of churches of Christ
 - 1. 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
 - 2. I suspect that members of churches of Christ will be a minority group in heaven!
- D. What Christians must understand about the church, heaven and God before answering the 21st century bigot

I. THE CHURCH IN HEAVEN VS. LOCAL CONGREGATIONS

- A. The difference between local churches and the Church glorified in heaven
 - 1. Local churches consist of Christians at varying levels of development and devotion
 - a. Some are faithful and some are not
 - b. Some will be faithful till death and some will not
 - c. Some are serious about growing and working and some are not
 - d. The church directory is not a list of Christians going to heaven, any more than the directory of churches of Christ imply all congregations are sound in doctrine
 - 2. Rev. 3:4-5, 2:14, 17
- B. In the end of the Dispensation of Christ, all of the saved will be the church universal glorified in heaven, for all faithful Christians in sound congregations will be joined together with the Lord, they along with those who died in that condition - 1Thes. 4:14-17
 - 1. There will be no unfaithful Christians in the church glorified in heaven
 - 2. There will be no professed Christians from unsound congregations or denominations of men in heaven
 - 3. All three fall under the aegis of Matt. 7:13-14, 21-23
 - 4. 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

II. WHO IS NUMBERED AMONG THE SAVED?

- A. Who is numbered among the saved and will be part of the church as it is glorified in heaven?
 - 1. "You believe that only people from your church are going to Heaven"
 - 2. Such a statement manifests three things:
 - a. A very denominational view of churches, not the New Testament church work, worship, and organization
 - b. Ignorance
 - c. Partisan bigotry
- B. Who are the saved?
 - 1. First, we are not the judge; God is the Judge - James 4:12; Rom. 14:12
 - 2. However, God makes clear that the obedient will be saved
 - a. Matt. 10:22; 2Thes. 1:8-9
 - 3. Christ's body is the church - Col. 1:18
 - 4. There is one body - Eph. 4:4
 - 5. 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
- C. Some local congregations have members who do not serve Christ; they are not numbered among the saved
 - 1. 1Cor. 1:2; Phil. 1:1 - To specifically name faithful members implies that churches have some in their midst who are in sin
 - 2. 1Cor. 5:1-8; Heb. 10:26-31
 - 3. 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
- D. Those who are saved are known only to God - 1John 1:6-7; 2Tim. 2:19
 - 1. Simply because we assemble with a church of Christ that teaches sound doctrine will not give us an exemption into Heaven; it does not mean we are part of the church universal; and, it does not mean we are numbered among the saved
 - 2. If it is not enough to simply associate with 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!
 - 3. 1Peter 4:17-18