

Do You think you are the only ones going to Heaven?
Matthew 19:25-26
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show who the Bible says will go to heaven.

Discuss the key text in relation to the topic.

Intro: 1. The Question & some simple truths.

- God wants all to be saved (**1 Tim 2:4**)
- Jesus died for all to be saved (**John 3:17**)
- The Word of God must be our total guide (**Psalm 73:24**)
- Scripture is available for all to read, understand, obey and be saved (**Hebrews 5:9**)

2. The narrow path. How narrow? How broad? Who determines the size of the path to eternal life?

I. The Body of Christ will be saved.

A. Christ is the Savior of the Body

1. **Eph 5:23, Eph 1:3,7**

2. These verse not only show us who saves mankind but also where He saves them – in the church, His body, **Eph 1:22-23**

B. Can't people obtain salvation in some other place too?

1. Only those who were on the ark were saved; no other place of salvation was available. **1 Pt 3:19-21**

2. **2 Timothy 2:10** – Salvation is in the body of Christ.

II. THE church will be saved

A. Who adds to the church?

1. **Acts 2:47**

a. **Acts 2:38,41**

2. Christ commands baptism, since baptism places us in the body of Christ (the church – **Eph 1:22-23**) then its only logical only those in the church that belongs to Christ will go to heaven.

B. The church of the firstborn/of Christ will be saved.

1. early churches were also called churches of Christ – **Rom 16:16**,

2. Mt 16:18 – the church belongs to Christ, He built it and paid for it (**Acts 20:28**)

III. One Group

(body of Christ, church, church of God, & church of Christ all refer to the same group.)

1. None of these names refers to a denomination.

a. For example the church of God in the Bible is a reference to the church's owner-God; not the denomination that wears that name today.

2. Some may say that denominations compose one universal church, however in the 100+ times the term is used in the N.T. it refers to either the church universal or locally but never to a denomination.

3. The reference is instead to the church who is unified and always teaching the same thing
(1 Cor 1:10)

Application & Conclusion:

1. Do you think only members of the church of Christ are going to be saved?
 - a. Sometimes people use the term church of Christ in the sense of it being a denomination, no denomination, by any name will be saved.
 - b. However if you are talking about the church that was bought by Christ, it's head is Christ, it's members are those who are obeying His commands, then yes. Those individuals will be saved.
2. One church is not as good as another. Only one belongs to Christ, only the members of His church, the only church, will go to heaven.
 - a. Those who are born again (**John 3:3**, are added to the body of Christ (**Gal 3:27,Rom 6:3**), the church (**Eph 1:22-23,Eph 5:23** "savior of the body". Only these will see heaven.

3. Full Invitation

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Luke 13:3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – Rev 2:10,

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9