Salvation In His Church

God's word clearly teaches that salvation is found in Christ Jesus. Paul writes, "Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory" (2 Timothy 2:10). Salvation can be found in no other. "That by the name of Jesus Christ... Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be save" (Acts 4:10-12). This truth being said, what many overlook is that to be in Christ is to be in His church as the New Testament explains.

The church is the body of Jesus Christ and He is the savior of that body (Ephesians 1:18-23). Since God gave Him to be head over all things to the church, how is it possible for one to be saved if they are not part of His church? The church is made up of the "elect," those who have put on Jesus in baptism (Galatians 3:27), having their sins washed away so that God added them to the church (Acts 2:38, 47). Notice the order of the steps as outlined in Acts chapter 2. The alien sinner was not saved before realizing where he stood in disobedience to God.

When the realization of being alienated from God because of sin became apparent, those in Acts chapter 2 were "cut to the heart" (Acts 2:37). When they asked how to remedy their separation from God, they were told to "repent, and be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). Those who gladly received Peter's words (Acts 2:41) were baptized and God added about 3,000 to the church of Christ. They were saved by being added and added while being saved. Submission to God's will brought about salvation from sin and added the repentant, obedient sinners to His church.

God saves through Christ. Baptism brings one into Christ (Romans 6:3, Galatians 3:27). Baptism is also the means by which one enters into the church. "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body..." (1 Corinthians 12:13). Those who are in Christ are in His church. The church is that body of believers who have been baptized for the forgiveness of their sins (Acts 2:38, Accts 22:16, Mark 16:16, 1 Peter 3:21). One is either in Christ or out of Christ. If in Christ, then also a member of His body, the church.

Let us each purpose to live according to His will and be "faithful unto death" so that we may obtain the "crown of life" (Revelation 2:10).