

Why Did/Does the Savior make you, the redeemed, Church Members?

Acts 2:42-47

“And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”—Acts 2:47

We are going to take several lessons, I do NOT know how many, to examine the further statement of: “Why did God leave me here upon this earth after He saved me?”

It is without question that the Lord saves whom He wills. Scripture is plain. And it is without question, as well, that God takes those whom He redeems and adds them unto His church. Scripture is plain here too! By church—we are referring unto His church (**Matt.16:18**). I will NOT at this time go into what His “MY CHURCH” is—you have ample references before you. There are “*trail of blood*” pamphlets available to you, “*Scriptural Church Organization*” books by Milburn Cockrell available to you, “*Three Witnesses for the Baptists*” books by Curtis Pugh available to you, and many others. I would recommended *A Concise History of Baptists from the time of Christ their founder to the 18th century* by G.H. Orchard, *A History of the Baptists* by John T. Christian, *Baptist Church Perpetuity or History* by W.A. Jarrel, *Short History of the Baptists* by H.C. Vedder, *Vital Church Truths* by R. J. Anderson, *Two Babylons* by Hislop, *Baptist Church Manual* by J.M. Pendelton, and many other books of which I will leave off listing at this time. It is without question that the Lord has a church. That His “*My Church*” has been on this earth since before Pentecost, has prevailed against all that Satan, the world, the flesh, could muster, and has continued down to this very day, yea and will continue until He comes again for His word declares: “...and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world [consummation of the age]” referring unto the end of the church age which shall conclude at the rapture of the church **Matt.28:20**. Now, if Christ's church was ever so corrupted that it had to be reformed, then Christ has lied and is not worthy of our devotion. Rather, I believe that He has miraculously and supernaturally, as well as ordinarily through the endeavors of His Spirit through His church and His people to maintain a church of the Lord Jesus Christ upon this earth since He established it during His earthly ministry.

Let us then examine the question proposed, “*Why did/does the Lord add you, the redeemed, to His church?*”

Does The Lord Add To His Church?

Acts 2:47—“*And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*” The *Amplified Bible* renders: “...and the Lord kept adding [to their number] daily those who were being saved (from Spiritual death).”

The word “*Added*” = *to place additionally, to lay beside, annex, repeat, to increase.*

Observe in that great chapter referring unto the Lord's Church: **1Corinthians 12:24**—“...but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honor to that part which lacked”; The *Amplified Bible* renders: “...But God has so adjusted (mingled, harmonized and subtly proportioned the parts of the whole) body...”

The word “*tempered*” = *to commingle, to combine or assimilate, to mix with.* *VINE's* states: “*to mix or blend together;*” is used of the combining of the members of the human body into an organic structure, as illustrative of the members of a local church.

Observe, **1 Corinthians 12:28**—“*And God hath set [to place in an upright and active position (Strong's #5087)] some in the church...*”

Take NOTE of that dear saints—that God Almighty hath placed His redeemed (for He has never added a lost person to His church) in the church in an upright and active position. This does beg the question: “IN WHAT WAY ARE YOU ACTIVE?”

The *Amplified Bible* renders: “*So God has appointed some in the church (for His own use)...*” Again the question must be asked, “In what way is God using you?” Let us be reminded that our answers must not be according to feelings, or thoughts, but according to Scripture. For God will in NO WAY use us, His people whom He has added to His church, in an unscriptural fashion. We'll return to that thought a little later.

We must conclude that the Lord does as to His church.

Whom Does the Lord Add To His Church?

Acts 2:47—“*And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*” **Acts 2:41**—“*Then they*

that gladly received his word were baptized; and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls”.

We find in Scripture that those who were saved, those who received His word and were baptized were added unto the church. We find this practiced throughout the book of Acts: **Acts 2:38; 5:5-8,12; 8:35-39; 9:18; 10:44-48; etc.** You see, beloved, that God hath ordained, that those who are saved, are to be baptized because of the remission of sins, and having been baptized they are to be members of the Lord's church that baptized them. In all of the N.T you will never find a born-again, believer outside of the Lord's church. Sinners were preached the gospel unto, sinners were saved by faith, they were baptized because of the remission of sins, and they were added to the church daily such as should be saved that had gladly received His word.

How Does The Lord Add To His Church?

Does Not the Scriptures indicate that there is a door to the church? **Rev.3:20**—“*Behold, I stand at the door and knock...*” This is the church door, not the “heart door of the sinner”. Christ is here pictured as outside His church knocking on her door. There is the door of entrance and the door of exit for a church. The door of entrance is baptism. The door of exit is threefold: death, church discipline, move membership by letter.

How, then does the Lord add to His church? By voluntary subjection to His revealed will! By submitting to the teachings of “*thus saith the Lord*”. By entering in through the door of the church.

In His earthly ministry Jesus taught regarding the lamp and the lamp stand (**Matt.5:15-16**). A saved person who does not join the Lord's church has put his/her light “under a bushel”. The saved person who unites with the church has put his /her light “*on a candlestick*” or “*on a lampstand*”, and it glorifies God, as well as, gives light to all the members of Christ's household. One puts his/her lamp upon the lampstand by submitting to Scriptural baptism, or by moving his/her membership by letter, or in the rarest of cases by statement.

Why Does the Lord Add or Why Did He Add You to His Church?

Is it possible that the Lord knows what He's doing? Is it not even probably that God in His infinite wisdom, established His church for the good of those He has saved? Does not the Scripture **Romans 8:28** indicate this? “*And we know all things work together for good, to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose*” (**Rom.8:28**). Is it not possible, that God who created man, in the beginning, and knew that “*it was not good that man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him*” (**Gen.2:18**); that this very same God knows exactly what His new creation needs as well? Thus, while here upon this earth, He established His church, organized it, gave it a commission—her marching orders, gave her gifts, gave her officers, gave her His Spirit and His presence, provided for her for nearly 2,000 years because He knows exactly what you and I stand in need of. And He has provided His church to this end, for our good, for His glory

We will go into this in greater detail in the future.

Are there any Biblical Reasons Not to Be a Member of the Lord's Church?

There are NO Biblical reasons why a person who professes that they are saved should not be a member of the Lord's Church and attend the services and endeavors of the church faithfully. Many folks give many unscriptural excuses, but...the Bible gives no reason. In fact, it is the desire of God's people to submit to His will and to follow the Great Shepherd of the sheep. Did not Saul of Tarsus, after that He was saved, desired to “*join himself to the disciples*” when he came to Jerusalem? **Acts.9:26,27**. Did we not observe in **Acts** how that as they went out preaching the gospel to every creature that the Lord saved, and baptized and new churches were established and organized in towns where there was no church?