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THE BAPTIST DISTINCTIVES 1611 KING JAMES VERSION ONE SOUL AT A TIME

THE SOULWINNER

ISSUE 93 — July 11, 2015

Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. Promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Inner City. Illustration, photography, graphic design and journalism by Jim Robinson. Most all pictures link. Past Issues of *The Soulwinner* can be obtained from jartworks.org.

“I Go to Church” But Have You Been Saved?

Sometimes when we go soul winning and pose the question, “If you died today are you 100% sure you would go to heaven?” we get an answer concerning **works**. Some people feel they will go to Heaven because they lived a good life, or brought up their family well, or worked hard all of their life. These are reasons they give because they do not understand the grace of God insomuch that **we are not saved by works—we are saved by our faith in Jesus Christ**. But more often we will get an answer that the person feels they will get to Heaven because they go to church.

Going to church does not save a person from Hell or ensure a place in Heaven. In the first place, it is probably the wrong kind of church if they are teaching that going to church gets you to Heaven. In the second place, going to church is a **work**—it is not the requirement for being saved. If you never went to church but you were saved you would still go to Heaven. Likewise, if you went to church when the doors were open and you never got saved you would not go to Heaven.

Commonly, church is considered a **religious** thing. Lighting candles, sitting through a message, singing religious songs, tithing, and other rituals seem to convince people that these particular works **earn** their way to Heaven. They feel Heaven is bought by church attendance, not the blood of Christ. But, as it says in Proverbs 49:7: **None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him;** salvation can not be bought with money or works.

The church is the body of believers, not the physical build-



(Photo courtesy of Microsoft Publisher) Many people feel the aura of a church (like this beautiful design) constitute the presence and rituals of God that will get them into Heaven. The church however is the called out body of believers (people).

ing and the things contained therein. The church is not the carved stature of the saint that people bow down to. It is not the altar where the sacrifices were made in the Old Testament. The church is the people who are all saved. The mere fact that the altar had so many artifacts in Solomon’s Temple did not mean that praying **to** the altar would save you from Hell. It was the blood shed on the altar by the priests of the sacrificial animals that represented the blood of Christ that saves you. It is all in abstract, not literally the physical church that saves you.

When I used to be a Catholic, I can remember some of the rituals of the priest in an effort to make the wine and bread the physical body and blood of Christ with the many drawn out “prayers” and

chants and other rituals he did. I never quite understood, I only was convinced it was a good thing to take of the bread and wine and doing it enough times would possibly get me to Heaven, or at least get God to be good to me.

Please be sure to let people know they are not saved from Hell by going to church. ■

