



QA: Can People Be Saved Without the Church? by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

QUESTION: Can people be saved without the church?

ANSWER: Let the Bible speak as to who is saved and where.

1. **Conversion:** Saul of Tarsus was told "Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (**Acts 22:16**), "and he arose and was baptized" (**Acts 9:18**). John said, "For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ" (**John 1:17**). Paul wrote, "I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness *comes* through the law, then Christ died in vain" (**Galatians 2:21**). People who claim to be saved by keeping the Law of Moses, including the 10 Commandments, are, in effect, ignoring Jesus' death, which removed the Law of Moses so that He could teach: "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (**Mark 16:16**).
2. **Saved Without the Church:** Paul told the Ephesian Elders "to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood" (**Acts 20:28**). That purchase makes Christians "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people" (**1 Peter 2:9**). People who obey the command to "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (**Acts 2:38, 41**), know that "the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved" (**Acts 2:47**). People claim they are saved and live a Christian life but have nothing whatever to do with the churches of Christ, have killed Jesus' purpose in dying on the cross! *Since His death purchased the church, and the Lord adds the saved to the church, no one saved is outside His church.*
3. **Why Reject Jesus' Church?** Do you blame Jesus Christ for Judas Iscariot? No, because "Satan entered Judas" (**Luke 22:3**). Since the church of Christ is the body of Jesus Christ today (**Colossians 1:24**), why blame the churches of Christ for the "ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ" (**Jude 4**)? It seems people want to dismiss the churches of Christ by emphasizing the hypocritical few. Do not reject Jesus because of Judas, and do not reject the church of Christ because some have failed to be faithful. Paul wrote "To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ *who are* in Colossae" (**Colossians 1:2**). Everyone in the churches of Christ are not "ungodly," anymore than all Apostles are betrayers of Jesus Christ!

— jtp// November 7, 2021