Pillars of the Truth

Article #5

***The BIBLE ONLY Makes CHRISTIANS ONLY***

***and the ONLY CHRISTIANS***

Thomas B. Warren

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That there is **one and only one God** can be proved. That **the Bible** is the Word of God can be prod. That **the Bible** teaches that there is one and only one **God, one Lord, one Spirit,** one **faith,** one **baptism, one body,** and one **hope** is made clear beyond doubt (Eph. 4:4-6).

In spite of the above noted facts, some people adamantly affirm that there are many churches and that any one of these churches is as good as any other church. In fact, many claim that one can be a Christian without being in any church at all. Sadly, even some in the Lord’s church do this.

In contradiction to the immediately preceding, the Bible plainly teaches that there is **one—and only one—church** which is approved by God and that **salvation is in that one church;** that is, no can be saved by the bloodof Christ without being in that one church!

No one has a God-given right to declare to others, “There are many churches and any one of them is as good as any other.” Jesus died and bought the one **church** (His church) with His own blood (Acts 20:28).

 I affirm, without equivocation, that the **Bible only** makes **Christians only** and the **only Christians!** I claim to **know** that this affirmation is **true** (cf., John 8:32).

Because I am so strongly convinced of the truth of the first three paragraphs of this article, I have written a book (217 pages) entitled, *The Bible Only Makes Christians Only and the Only Christians.* This is a book which explains this matter in much greater detail than can be done in this brief article.

Some people, including some who are members of the Lord’s church, claim that while members of the church of Christ are Christians only, members of the church of Christ are **not the only** Christians. When people affirm such a doctrine, they are clearly implying that there are Christians living in the world today who are not members of the church which Jesus bought with His own blood (Acts 20:28; Eph. 1:7; Heb. 9:12-14; 1 Pet. 1:19; Rev. 5:9). The Bible teaches otherwise. The Bible teaches that there is **not one person** who has been saved in any way other than by the **blood of Christ** (Heb. 9:22; cf., Lev. 17:11). And Jesus bought nothing with His blood other than **the church** (Acts 20:28).

The claim is made here that—by knowing what the Bible teaches about the matter—one can know that the **Bible Only** makes **Christians Only** and the **Only** Christians.

How can this be the case? Because people **can know,** not merely **guess:** (1) that God **does** exist, (2) that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, (3) that the Bible can be understood (it **can be correctly interpreted,** John 8:32), (4) that men **must obey** what the Bible teaches them to obey, (5) that the Bible only makes Christians only, and, (6) the **Bible only** makes **Christians only** and the **only Christians** (this means that no one is a Christian who has **not** **both learned and obeyed** what the Bible teaches people **must do** in order to be saved by the **blood of Christ,** Heb. 5:8-9; cf., Phi. 2:8). It must be repeated: there is not even one person who is a **Christian** who is not a member of **the church** which Jesus bought with His blood (Acts 20:28; cf., Gal. 1:4; 2:20).