

# Strange Things You Hear About the Church of Christ (#9 of 12)

## "You Think Only Your Little Group Is Going To Heaven"

**Text:** Matthew 27:45-50

### **Introduction:**

1. Our series has thus addressed multiple charges made against the church of Christ ["You don't believe the Old Testament;" "You believe in works salvation;" "You don't believe in instrumental music;" "You don't believe in miracles;" "You oppress women."] and each charge has been addressed and found wanting when the Bible is set forth as the standard of examination rather than the emotions, traditions, and desires of man.
2. Today we continue with the examination of these charges, with the same determination to have the standard as God's will (John 12:48). The charge we examine in this lesson is the oft given charge that we believe "our little group is the only one going to heaven."

### **Discussion:**

#### **I. The Charge Often Reeks of Hypocrisy**

1. True or false?
  - (1) John 3:16; 14:6
  - (2) Hebrews 11:6
2. If these are true, what of Islamists? Buddhists? Hindi? **Jews?** ...
3. What of Mormons? Jehovah's Witnesses? **Catholics?**...
4. It seems that many want to "draw a line" regarding salvation, but place it where they want instead of continuing to seek God's Word.

#### **II. Where Did God Put the "Line" Regarding Those Going to Heaven?**

1. Matthew 7:13-14
2. John 3:16
3. Hebrews 5:9

#### **III. The Bible Truth**

1. God is serious – Matthew 27:45-50
2. God has placed salvation in a certain place – Ephesians 1:3; 21-23
3. The church Jesus built is of the utmost importance – Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:25
4. The church Jesus built is singular – Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 4:4
5. God adds those He determines as saved to that body – Acts 2:37-47
6. God will take that church into heaven – Ephesians 5:27; 1 Corinthians 15:24

### **Conclusion:**

1. I am not too concerned about the charges made against me as a member of His church. God's Word points out the error and hypocrisy of such charges.
2. God wants all mankind to be saved (John 3:16), but that salvation is on His terms (Hebrews 5:9), not the whims or dictates of man and his creeds. He has clearly told us that there is one church which He deems the body of the saved (Ephesians 4-5). He has also told us how to be a member of that church (Acts 2).
3. Do I believe "my little group is the only one going to heaven?" No, but I do believe that God had clearly said that His church is a small group and it is the only one going to heaven. I also believe that I am a member of that very body, a belief I can and have demonstrated by examining God's Word.