



Salvation and Local Church Membership

The Gospel Produces Disciples

- The gospel is preached to produce disciples – Mt. 28:18-20
 - Discipleship **begins** with **baptism**
 - Discipleship is **lived** through **learning** and **obeying**
- This process is evident in the apostles' work of carrying out the Great Commission – Acts 2
 - The gospel was preached and Christ presented as their Savior and Lord (obedience) – 2:36
 - Hearers were commanded to be baptized to be saved – 2:38
 - Those willing to hear were baptized, added to the saved by the Lord, and *sought out instruction in the Lord's will* – 2:41-42
 - Disciples, or Christians, seek out opportunities to learn and grow because they are **followers** of Christ, those wanting to be **Christ-like**.

The Gospel Produces Local Churches

- Pattern: Gospel preached, souls saved, local churches formed by the saved
 - Seen in the preaching work of the Jews scattered by persecution – Acts 11:19, 25-26
 - Seen in the preaching work of Paul and company – Acts 14:21-23; 15:36, 40-41
- This pattern is strengthened by Christians being commanded to be part of a local church – Heb. 10:19-27
 - Writer sought to assure these Jews' faithfulness to Christ – 10:19-22
 - They were commanded to hold fast to their hope and *not to forsake the assemblies of the church* – 10:23-25
 - The seriousness of leaving one's hope and, thus, forsaking the assemblies is willful sin and spiritual death – 10:26-27

The Local Church and Spiritual Wellbeing

- God provides the spiritual oversight needed by the Christian through the local church **eldership**.
 - Elders appointed in every church – Acts 14:23
 - Elders oversee and shepherd God's flock, the local church – 1 Pet. 5:1-4
 - Due to the seriousness of the office, the eldership must meet certain qualifications and have at least two – 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Tit. 1:5-9
- Members of the local church are to submit to their elders because they **watch out for their souls** – Heb. 13:17
- Spiritual wellbeing is assured by **edification** through **evangelists, teachers, and members** of the local church – Eph. 4:11-12, 14; 1 Thess. 5:14-15; Gal. 6:1-2

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- Elders
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- Due to qualifications

These work together for the Christian's spiritual growth and protection in the local church!

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