

MARSHALL COUNTY DEVOTIONAL PAGE

"And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know Him that is true, and we are in Him that is true, even in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life." - 1 John 5:20

As baseball season is in full swing across the country, from the Little League World Series to the Major League pennant run for the playoffs, this observation about the game has been made:

You have two sides, one out in the field and one in a dugout. Each man that's on the side that's in, goes out, and when he's out he comes in, and the next man goes in until he's out. When three men are out, the side

that's out comes in, and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those coming in - out. When both sides have been in and out nine times, that's the end of the game.

Obviously, the rules of baseball deal with absolutes. There are no "okay" areas. There are no "kind-of" base paths. There are no pitchers who throw silverware at plates. There are no "close-enough" foul lines, nor any outlandish gray areas. Regardless of the league, the rulebook for baseball calls for either fair or foul, either in or out. That's just baseball. Absolutely no chance for change!

The same absolutes apply to one's saving relationship with the Son of God, Jesus Christ. A person is either "in Christ" or "outside of Christ." Just

as it is in the rules of baseball, so it is regarding a saving relationship with Christ. There is no "close-enough," no "okay" areas, no "kind-of" or "maybe" salvation. Many try to make up their own rules that are not according to the Holy "rule" Book, called God's word, and that's a foul ball. God's word is clear on how a person is accepted in order to have eternal life. Our opening verse declares that eternal life is the Person of Jesus Christ, the True God, and we who believe are "in Him." The phrase "in Christ" is specifically used seventy-seven times in the New Testament describing the spiritual union that a believer has with Christ as their personal Lord, Savior, and God. Professing to be "in Christ" is a person's confession of their sins,

expressing that they are unworthy of heaven, and testifying that by God's grace through their faith "in Christ" alone they receive His sacrifice upon the cross for the full and final payment of all their sin crimes that they have committed against God's holiness. To be "in Christ" is another way of expressing what it means to be a Christian belonging to Christ, by His redeeming love.

Have you from your heart expressed faith "in Christ" alone? The only way anyone can be saved from eternal destruction and called by God, the Sovereign Umpire, as "safe" - is to be "in Christ." We can't change the rules. Either you're in or out!

David C. Hale, pastor Email: insights@gmx.com

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