



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

April 14, 2013

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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Bobby Bear
Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Kirby Hinds

Secretary:

Susan Chandler

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:30 pm

Monday

Ladies Class 10 am

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SACRIFICE

Sacrifice is not a word we use much these days, is it? When was the last time you used it or thought about it in terms of your own life? When was the last time you sacrificed anything for anybody? Come to think about it, there's only one sport as far as I know where the term is actually used. Do you know which sport that is? You can almost hear the commentator announcing it over the radio, "And there is goes, a long fly ball to left; easy out, but the man on third tags up and trots home – Sacrifice fly."

What a great idea – you're out, but you helped someone else score a run. Baseball is one of the few sports where you lose but the team still gains. Have you heard the way one comedian spells it out in his routine about the contrast between the hardness of football and the softness of baseball? He says: "In football you tackle! In baseball, you 'catch flies.'" In football you punt! In baseball you "bunt." Football is played on a Gridiron! Baseball is played on a "field." In football you score! In baseball you "go home." In football you kill! In baseball you "sacrifice."

Baseball may be the only sport where you actually can hear this word. It's one of the few places anywhere that you hear it in a self-centered, take-care-of-yourself, don't-worry-about-anybody-else society. In contrast to football, sacrifice may sound like a sign of weakness but I hardly think of any of those in this year's World Series as weak. Baseball's one thing – but life is quite another. Who sacrifices anything anymore in a time like ours? Who really denies themselves and takes up crosses anymore?

Inspiration says, "*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service*" (**Romans 12:1**). Let's live sacrificial lives for our Lord and one another!

Tom Moore

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

God has revealed His plan for the salvation of the world in the Scriptures. All of us can understand and obey God's plan. Isaiah wrote, "*And a highway shall be there, and a way and it shall be called the way of holiness;...it shall be for the redeemed: the wayfaring men, yea fools, shall not err therein*" (**Isaiah 35:8**). God welcomes and His Son calls every weary, sin-sick soul, "*The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And he that hears, let him say, Come. And he that is athirst, let him come: he that will, let him take the water of life freely*" (**Revelation 22:17**).

God centered His plan for saving us from sin and death on His son Jesus Christ. Jesus lived a sinless life, died for sinners at the hands of sinful men, and demonstrated His power over sin and death in His resurrection. John wrote, "*Jesus said unto him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes unto the Father, but by Me*" (**John 14:6**). Peter affirmed this principle of salvation, "*In none other is there salvation: for neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, wherein we must be saved*" (**Acts 4:12**).

The Bible teaches that God has one plan of salvation. Just as there is one savior, Christ, there is one plan of salvation. Paul taught the unity and oneness of God's plan in **Ephesians 4:4-6**, "*There is one body, and one Spirit, even as also ye were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all.*" The conversions in the book of Acts emphasize the oneness of God's plan for salvation. Each example of conversion gives the same plan and the same requirements for salvation (**Acts 2, 8, 10, 16, 18, and 22**). This plan of salvation leaves no room for the deviations and systems which men devise.

God's gave all authority to His Son, Jesus Christ (**Matthew 28:18**). Therefore, Jesus has the right to command the terms upon which He will save us. Jesus and His inspired apostles stated the response that we must make to receive the blessings offered by His plan of Salvation. The Bible teaches us exactly how to respond to the Lord's plan of salvation. We must hear the Word of God in order to have faith (**Romans 10:17**). Faith comes by hearing and without faith, it is impossible to please God (**Hebrews 11:6**). Based on our faith, we must repent and turn to God (**Acts 2:38; 3:19**). God requires that we confess our faith in Christ Jesus (**Romans 10:9-10**). We are to be baptized into Christ to put on Christ and for the remission of our sins (**Galatians 3:27; Romans 6:3-4; Acts 2:38**).

God's plan of salvation includes living faithfully in Christ and His church unto the point of death (**John 15:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Revelation 2:10**).

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