



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

April 1, 2012

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Bobby Bear
Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary
Don Wicks

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

Email:

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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

WHAT IF GOD TOLD YOU TO?

Do you cut your grass with a riding mower? If God said, "Cut it with the push mower," you would wouldn't you? You don't floss? Ahh, but if God said, "Floss at least once every day" I think you would floss every day. For the sake of argument, let's say that you don't wear your seat belt all the time. But if you were reading your Bible and **Mark 16:16** said, "Fasten your seatbelt every day and you will surely be saved," would you fasten your seatbelt first thing when getting into your car?

No problem right? You are going to do whatever God tells you to do. Are you sure about that? God says to be baptized for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**). Have you done that? When the church sings in worship do you sing? You reason, I don't like to sing, or I can't sing or I don't like this genre of songs. So when others are singing you sit there silently, not singing, even though God said to sing (**Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16**). Through instruction and example we learn that God purposed for the church to assemble every first day of the week and remember the death of His Son by partaking of the Lord's Supper. But you sleep in or bog yourself down with chores and come up with some reason to keep you away from half the assemblies (**Hebrews 10:25**).

So let's back up. What if God told you to cut your grass with the push mower and to floss and to buckle up? Maybe you would just say "No thanks." All in all you would be described by God as obedient or as disobedient, rebellious? God told Adam and Eve not to eat and they ate. He told Moses to speak to the rock but he struck it. He told the nation of Israel not to work on the Sabbath and a guy picked up sticks. And He told us...And what have we done?

"And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him," (**Hebrews 5:9**)

Brent Smith

“LORD, WHAT WILT THOU HAVE ME TO DO?”

A great lesson was brought to me this week by one of our young people that I would like to share with all of you. Before Natalie Lee was baptized on Monday evening, having understood the steps she must take in order to be saved, I asked her if there were any other questions she had about becoming a Christian. She simply replied, “after I am baptized, what should I do?”

This may not seem like much to you, but to God this is the greatest question any of His children could possibly ask. Many times people are so concerned with meeting the requirements to contact the saving blood of Christ that they forget that baptism is the first step in the life of a Christian. The Bible paints a very clear picture about what steps one must take to become a child of God. It also paints a very clear picture concerning what it takes to remain a child of God. I’m afraid sometimes we do a disservice to the lost when we only tell them about “becoming” and don’t say enough about “behaving.”

We have been so blessed recently by those who have made the decision to put on the Lord in baptism. Since December 12 the Lord has added 13 to His kingdom here at Pulaski St. We should also notice, however, that several of His children have been restored. Why? Because there is more to Christianity than just deciding to be baptized. It is a daily walk with God that begins on the other side of the watery grave. Paul wrote in **Romans 6:4** – *“Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”* It is that newness of life that none of God’s children should ever forget.

Paul knew what he was talking about. While still Saul, a great light from heaven shone upon him and the voice of Jesus called his name. Saul’s response was as direct as young Natalie’s, *“Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?”* (**Acts 9:6**). Saul was told to enter into the city, and it would be told him what he must do. The New Testament was not yet available to Saul, so God chose Ananias to teach Saul about salvation and living the Christian life. He was told not to tarry, but to obey the Gospel and live as a Christian immediately (**Acts 22:16**).

I am so thankful to our God for giving us His Word to guide us in all spiritual matters. Imagine having two young people ask you what they should do with their lives. But when Jonathan and Natalie showed interest in salvation, I knew exactly what to say. It was right there in the book of Acts. I just relayed God’s message.

If I could say one thing to our new family members about their relationship with God, I would tell them to have the same attitude that Natalie had just before her baptism. Every morning when you rise up, ask your Lord and Savior, “Lord, what do you want me to do?” Search His book and He will tell you. Pray to Him and He will guide you. Live for Him and He will show you...what you *must* do.

Come to think of it, I think this is some pretty good advice for us all.

“And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (**Acts 22:16**)

Jeremiah Tatum