



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

March 10, 2013

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

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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IS JESUS GOD?

By Matthew K. Clifton

It is a well-known fact that the Bible describes Jesus as “the Son of God.” Aside from the fact the term is applied to Jesus 46 times in the New Testament, we can also read how Jesus praises the apostle Peter for his confession that Jesus is “*the Son of the Living God*” in **Matthew 16:13-18**.

But what does the Bible mean by calling Jesus the “Son of God?” Does it mean that Jesus is a created being, as some have alleged? Or is Jesus something much more?

Reading in **John 5**, we can see that following Jesus’ healing of a man on the Sabbath the Jews sought to kill Jesus (**John 5:16**). Jesus says, “*My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.*” The Jews got all the more angry, since “*He said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God*” (**John 5:18**). To those of Jesus’ time, to call oneself the “Son of God” was to claim equal status with God!

So when the Bible speaks of Jesus as the Son of God, it is not calling Him a created being, but rather affirming His deity. Jesus clearly calls Himself God in **John 8:58**, saying “*Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.*” Here Jesus takes the same name (I AM) that God used for Himself in **Exodus 3:14**. John further demonstrated this fact in his gospel account, saying “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God*” (**John 1:1**). He also writes that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (**John 1:14**), clearly equating Jesus with God.

What this all means is that God exists in three persons: “God the Father,” “God the Son,” and “God the Holy Spirit.” They have always existed eternally. If you are looking for a simple Biblical proof that Jesus is deity, and that He is eternal, look these passages up for yourself: **Matthew 1:22; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Micah 5:2; Revelation 1:8-18; Isaiah 44:6**. In these passages you will find that the promised Messiah (Jesus) is called “*God with us.*” He is said to be eternal, and He is called “Mighty God” and “Everlasting Father.” He also calls Himself “the First and the Last,” just as God did in the book of Isaiah. A created being could never be called by these names!

Salvation depends upon an obedient faith focused on a correct view of who Jesus is. In **John 8:24**, Jesus says, “*Unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.*” What does He tell us to believe? That He is “*I AM*” (**John 8:58**).

WHAT YOU DO IN THE CHURCH PEW MATTERS!

“Your mind your business and I’ll mind mine.” That is the motto of many and I, for one, like it! The Bible teaches us not to be busy-bodies. At the same time, we need to remember that what we do has an impact on others for good or bad. One of the reasons that God has us to come together in an assembly is to provoke one another to “*love and good works*” and to exhort those around us (**Hebrews 10:24-25**).

What you do in the church pew matters to the preacher. He shouldn’t assume that you are sleeping just because your eyes are always closed, or that you don’t care just because you don’t bring your Bible, or that you are not paying attention just because you play with the baby in front of you during the sermon. However, those who look at him and nod in agreement or disagreement with obvious interest, turn the pages of their Bibles and especially say “Amen” every now and then are much more encouraging! One preacher said it was like saying “sik ‘em to a bulldog!” You can be a Eutychus when the preacher goes till midnight.

What you do in the church pew matters to your family. Mommies and daddies do good when they bring their children to Bible class and to worship. They do even better when they show them by example how to behave in worship. Over the years, an obvious pattern has manifested itself. Parents who don’t bring their Bibles and participate have children that don’t bring their Bibles and participate. Parents who don’t sing have children who just sit in the pew and don’t sing. Dads and moms who are distracted and disengaged from the worship have children who must constantly be entertained or disciplined. For those families, the pew is a boring bench that must be endured for an hour. Paul told us to “*bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord*” (**Ephesians 6:4**).

What you do in the church pew matters to everyone else in the audience. You take a section of the audience that has many individuals who are timid about singing and place in their midst an individual or family that makes a joyful noise and just watch what happens! Zeal for the worship of God is contagious! Which assembly is more edifying, twenty souls with everyone participating to their fullest or one hundred souls with half just taking up space in the pew?

Most importantly, what I do in the church pew matters to God. “*But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him*” (**John 4:23**).

Brent Smith