



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

November 27, 2011

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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

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THERE IS A WAY THAT SEEMS RIGHT

Proverbs 14:12, *“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”* So many times in our lives we choose a way or path that isn’t God approved. We do this because it “seems” or “feels” right. This can be very damaging, spiritually speaking, to ourselves and others. How would any of us know what is right or wrong without consulting God and His word first? Peter so often went down a path of his own choosing, before coming to all his senses. But, he made a very profound and wise statement when answering Jesus about leaving Him. *“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of life.”* (**John 6:68**).

We need to ask ourselves this when facing tough situations. Will we go with what is popular? Will we go with our “feelings?” We must turn to the Lord and His word. Many decisions have a consequence not only for us but for others around us. What would Jesus do? This is a valid question when we are in a decision making process. Will our actions be hurtful to others while trying to satisfy ourselves? What are our motives as we decide the ways or paths we will take? **Matthew 7:12** (Golden Rule) should be considered when decisions we make involve other people.

Of course, we are not talking about decisions about buying homes or cars. We’re talking decisions we make while interacting with others. Actions we take and words we say must be measured against the good of all. When dealing with our brethren, we must act carefully and speak with love. Our actions should be thought out. Paul makes a wonderful, logical, and Christ like statement: *“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.”* (**Philippians 2:3**).

Let us always seek a way that is right, and not one that “seems” right. The footsteps of Jesus will never lead us astray. Look to the Master for what we should do and the correct attitude that we should possess. Our spiritual future and possibly that of others hangs in the balance.

Chris Moore

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE SALVATION ARMY

During the holiday season, Salvation Army bell ringers and their little red buckets are a familiar sight. Many people, even in the Lord's church, think the Salvation Army is just a charity. What many people are ignorant of, however, is that the Salvation Army, by its own admission is in reality a full-fledged denomination. While their many good works in benevolence and some of their doctrines are certainly good and even admirable, we must nonetheless ask the question, "Should we, as New Testament Christians, support the Salvation Army? Should we toss our change into their little red buckets?" From an examination of their literature, I am convinced the answer to these questions is a resounding "NO!"

The Salvation Army was co-founded in 1865 by William Booth and his wife Catherine in London, England. At first, the new denomination was known as "The Christian Mission," but in 1878, William Booth changed the name to "The Salvation Army" and assumed the title of General as its head. Its members then became known as Salvationists. From these facts alone, we can see that the Salvation Army is a human religious organization existing without Scriptural authority. It has a founder and head other than Jesus Christ; it wears names unknown to the Scriptures; it has an origin and organization different from the true church of Christ revealed in the New Testament. One cannot consistently oppose denominationalism while contributing to the Salvation Army.

When one takes a closer look at their doctrines, we see many disturbing things about the teachings of the Salvation Army. For example, they refuse to administer baptism to their converts, thus perverting the gospel plan of salvation. They also refuse to serve the Lord's Supper to their members and use instrumental music in worship, thus perverting the worship of the church. They are led by one person, known as the General, and allow women into positions of leadership, thus perverting the organization of the church. They allow all divorced persons to remarry, thus encouraging many to live in adultery. They have a human creed in addition to the Scriptures, thus perverting the authority of the Scriptures.

Many other examples could be given, but surely these will suffice to make the point. The Bible says, "*And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them*" (**Ephesians 5:11**). Brethren, what good does it do in the final analysis to help someone physically, but doom him spiritually? Yet that is just what the Salvation Army is unwittingly doing. Let us not support them, but rather expose and oppose their false doctrines while helping them to see the truth of the gospel.

Travis L. Quertermous