



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

April 13, 2014

P.O. Box 416  
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.  
Rockwood, TN 37854  
865-354-0855

**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

**Email:**

rockwdcc@gmail.com

**Website:**

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## SIX REASONS TO ATTEND BIBLE CLASS

Every Sunday morning Bible classes for every age are conducted in our church building. Lamentably, some of our people do not take advantage of these fine classes. Many children are prevented from attending their class each week because their parents fail to bring them. Some are prevented by illness or other factors beyond their control. It is not these that cause us concern, but those who can come, but do not. Some are slaves of a non-attendance habit they fell into somewhere along the way, others are just too lazy to get up in time, and still others do not care. The deep reason relating to all of these is more like a lack of genuine love for Christ. Please read the following reasons why one should faithfully attend his or her Bible class each Sunday. The love of Christ is at the root of each one!

1. The Devil is always seeking to devour us through temptation and false teaching (**I Peter 5:8; Colossians 2:8**). Your Bible class will help you to resist him with "it is written" (**Matthew 4:4ff**).
2. Jesus requires me to seek His kingdom before everything else (**Matthew 6:33**). Your Bible class is a work of the kingdom, designed to build up the kingdom. Can one seek the kingdom first and refuse or neglect his class?
3. Those who hunger and thirst for God's way shall be filled (**Matthew 5:6**). One who craves more spiritual nourishment will be in his Bible class each week, if able.
4. Jesus requires every disciple to bear fruit or be cut off and lost (**John 15:2ff**). Your Bible class will help you have the knowledge and zeal you need to be a soul winner.
5. God wants you to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord (**II Peter 3:18**). We cannot grow in His favor without growing in His knowledge. Your Bible class helps you to do this.
6. Your Bible class is either a good or an evil work. I suppose that even those who fail to attend would call it a good work. God's people are commanded to be "zealous of good works" (**Titus 2:14**). How can one be zealous of this work and refuse to attend and support it?

One's attitude toward the Lord's work is a true indication of his attitude toward Christ Himself (**John 12:48**). My brother or sister, please think soberly on these truths.

Via Nile Street church of Christ, Anna, IL, revised

# COMMANDS FROM CHRIST ARE NOT OPTIONAL

I recently received a daily devotional email sample from a denominational organization hoping I would be interested in signing up. After the devotional, they answered a question. The question was: “Can you go to heaven if you trust Jesus as your Lord and Savior but you are not yet baptized?”

They began their answer by saying: “Yes. Baptism has nothing to do with salvation.” Later in the answer they stated, “Baptism is an ordinance instituted by Christ until the end of the age.” Clearly this command was not only for the apostles who heard it but for His followers throughout the entire age. Finally they concluded with “One is saved without, apart from and before baptism. Those who are saved should desire baptism as a public profession of faith, but please realize that it is not necessary for salvation. If a person believes in Jesus as Lord and is never baptized, they will still be saved.”

I would like to analyze how they answered this most sincere and important question about baptism and see if it really “holds water.” I think it is very interesting that they admit that baptism is a command from Jesus Christ and then declare that it does not have to be followed. Imagine that – the command from Jesus Christ to be baptized is optional (so they say)! I wonder what other commands from Christ would be optional? I guess all that are not in line with man’s teachings.

All facetiousness aside, listen to what Jesus Himself said of what our attitude should be toward every command He gives:

**John 14:15**, *“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”*

**John 14:21**, *“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me.”*

**John 15:10**, *“If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love.”*

**John 15:14**, *“You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.”*

Note that there is no room for options, opinions, or omissions. That’s because Jesus is the One with all authority in heaven and on earth (**Matthew 18:18**). Whatever He has commanded, we’d better do. And Jesus commanded baptism as necessary for salvation (**Mark 16:16**) and declared it as the process for making disciples (**Matthew 28:19**). The apostles went about baptizing “in the name of” Jesus Christ (i.e. in the manner and for the purpose He authorized, (**Acts 2:38; 10:48**)). They knew something we should never forget. If it is a command from Christ, it’s not an option.