



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

April 24, 2022

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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
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Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

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Service Times:

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

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Confession and Consistency

By confessing Jesus as Lord, we obligate ourselves to obey Him. “*Lord*” isn’t just a respectful title. It refers to a master, one who has the right to decide and control.

Jesus asked this piercing question: “*Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do the things which I say?*” (**Luke 6:46**). Calling Jesus ‘*Lord*’ acknowledges that He has the right to decide what we ought to do and to control our behavior. He has done so through His inspired word, the Bible. Do we recognize our own inconsistency when we call Him Lord, yet neglect to do what the Scriptures teach?

An old cliché says, “*Talk is cheap.*” Truly, we can pay lip service to nearly anything. “*You shouldn’t litter!*” (Then I throw trash out of my car window.) “*I love my family!*” (Then I speak harshly, sarcastically, and rudely to them.)

Confessing Christ as Lord certainly is a good thing! In fact, it’s essential to salvation (**Romans 10:9-10**). But Jesus demands more than mere lip service. “*Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven*” (**Matthew 7:21**). Moreover, we don’t get to pick and choose what parts of His will to obey. Those converted to Christ are to “*obey all things that I have commanded you*” (**28:20**).

A servant who refuses to obey his master shouldn’t expect that master to be pleased with him. Do you expect Jesus to be pleased with you?

Joe Slater

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“HOW MUCH?”

How much would it take to move us to serve the Lord? How much would it take to get us excited about soul-winning? How much would it take to stir up our mind to obey the Lord, no matter what the command? These questions can only be answered by you as an individual and myself as an individual, but how we answer will affect the Body of Christ here at Rockwood.

When Jesus set aside a day to be remembered by His followers, to commemorate His death. He knew those that loved Him would obey because of their love for Him (**Matthew 26:26-28; Acts 20:7; John 14:15**). How much more would God need to do to get us out of our houses to gather to worship Him? He had His Son crucified - gave Him freely - that we could have eternal life (**John 3:16; I John 4:9-10; I John 5:11-12**). Yet, this same merciful, loving, faithful God stated: "*God is Spirit and they that worship Him **MUST** (emphasis mine) worship in spirit and in truth.*" (**John 4:24**) Therefore to forsake the Assembly of the saints - any assembly, is sin - To practice such is to cut one's self off from God (**Hebrews 10:24-30; I John 3:4-10**). When one refuses to gather with the saints that one shows a rebellious attitude towards God, towards Christ, and towards the precious sacrifice of Calvary. How much would God need to do in order to get some of us interested in being with the saints?

Yet, there is more to Christianity than merely "*showing up*" at the building. We first must worship God from the heart - Lip service never pleased Him. (**Matthew 15:6-9**) Our expression of love and service comes from the heart especially when Christ has been set apart as Lord (**I Peter 3:15**). ATTENDANCE will grow brethren, souls will be saved, attitudes changed when we come to the cross of Calvary and see what God has done for us. Redemption, sanctification, justification, salvation from sins, these all are found at the cross when we see our unworthiness, and see the purity of Jesus, then we will serve Him out of gratitude and love. Therefore, when He says Go - *we go* - when He says not to forsake - *we will not forsake*. Look what God has done for us (**Romans 3:24-26**) and see then what we need to do for Him!

Adapted
via Ralph

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