



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

August 23, 2015

P.O. Box 416
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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

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 10:00 a.m.

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BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

The denominational world says that baptism has nothing to do with our salvation, but let's see what the Bible says. Notice that it is baptism that puts us into Christ so that we can be saved. **Galatians 3:27** says, *"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."* Baptism is the only way a person can get into Christ. The preposition "into" indicates a change of relationship. You can search from the front to the back of your Bible, and you will find no other way to get into Christ except by being baptized "into" Christ. What is the advantage of being baptized into Christ?

Ephesians 1:3 says, *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ."* The verse tells us that every spiritual blessing is located in Christ. Only those who are in Christ can enjoy those spiritual blessings.

We read in **II Corinthians 5:17**, *"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."* If one is in Christ, he has become a new creation. This is how we are born again.

The Apostle Paul says in **II Timothy 2:10**, *"Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory."* Here we see that salvation is located in Christ, and for one to be eligible for salvation, he must be in Christ. It will be a horrible thing for a person, who thinks he is saved, when he stands before the Lord on the Day of Judgment, if he is still outside of Christ. He will have no salvation. He will be lost eternally in Hell.

In **I John 5:11** we read, *"And this is the testimony, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son."* Only those who have been baptized have the promise of eternal life. Those who are outside of Christ have no promise of eternal life but are lost.

Ron Boatwright

BAIT & SWITCH

Back when gas prices began to be so outrageously high, the news media spent a lot of time on stories related to the issue. One story I saw on television at the time was that customers in some locations were being tricked into purchasing gas at one price, only to find when they swiped their credit card a higher price was charged. This was because the price on the sign was the “cash” price, but the price went up when a person used a credit card. This type of trick is called “bait and switch,” where you offer a great looking product, but when the customer is locked into the purchase, a lesser product is substituted without the customer’s knowledge.

As I watched that news segment, I got to thinking that Satan is like that, isn’t he? He runs the old “bait and switch” on us all the time. He promises us something grand to get us to disobey God, but then when we get what we desired it turns out to be worthless! Or worse, spiritually destructive. In what ways does he do this to us?

Satan baits us with riches, but what we really get is covetousness and all kinds of evil. As we know, the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil (**I Timothy 6:10**). But covetousness (love of and desire for money and things) can cause us to refrain from a close walk with Jesus. Remember the Bible’s account of the rich young ruler (**Matthew 19:16-22**)? He was eager to know about eternal life, but when Jesus showed him that his covetousness was holding him back, he went away dejected because he loved his worldly possessions. We cannot serve two masters (**Matthew 6:24**). Satan wants us to pay attention to physical goods to the detriment of our souls. He baits us with material wealth, only to switch it with destruction. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit (**I Corinthians 6:19**). Like Jesus overturned the tables of the money changers in the physical temple, we must be willing to overturn the tables of covetousness in our spirits!

Satan baits us with physical pleasure, but what we really get is disease, heartache and judgment to come. Bathsheba was beautiful to David, and he desired to have her, but it was not right in God’s eyes (**II Samuel 11:2-4**). Misery began heaping upon misery, as David killed Bathsheba’s husband and took her as a wife. Because of this act that displeased God, David’s house would be troubled continually (**II Samuel 12:9-11**). Paul wrote that the body is not for sexual immorality (**I Corinthians 6:13**), so we should flee from it (**I Corinthians 6:18**). It is God’s will that we abstain from sexually immorality (**I Thessalonians 4:3-5**). Satan presents us with opportunities for sexual sin. But after the bait and switch, what we really get is heartache as we reap the consequences of our actions.

He baits us with power, but what we really get is slavery. How vivid is the retelling of Jesus Christ being tempted by Satan! Indeed, Satan boasted to offer Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if He would bow down and worship him (**Matthew 4:8-10**). The bait and switch, of course, is that when we obey Satan, we become his slave (**Romans 6:16**). Satan’s methods may seem to make us powerful in this world, but in the end we reap only destruction.

Don't find yourself caught on Satan's hook! The things he baits us with look attractive in the moment, but when the fraud is revealed, we are left holding a bag of sin that results in our own spiritual destruction.

Matt Clifton