



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

December 3, 2023

P.O. Box 416
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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Dale Barger

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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Sincerely Wrong

“Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness” (Romans 10:1-3).

Though it was hard for so many of them to believe, there were actually numerous children of Abraham who would be eternally lost (cf. **Romans 9:6-8**)! In disbelief they would counter: They loved God! They were sincere in their attempt to keep the Law! They could trace their lineage back to the ancient patriarch!

But none of those things could save them. Only obedience to Jesus saves.

Similarly for us:

- I’m not a Christian just because I live in America.
- I’m not a Christian just because my parents are.
- I’m not a Christian just because I belong to “a church.”
- I’m not a Christian just because I say I am.

We must be obedient to Jesus Christ! Among other things:

- A Christian has been washed in the blood of Christ and walks in the light (**Rev. 7:14; 1 John 1:7**).
- A Christian has repented of sin and been immersed for forgiveness of sins (**Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-5**).
- A Christian continually watches their lives and confesses sin (**1 John 1:9**).
- A Christian worship with fellow saints in spirit and truth (**John 4:23-24**).

We can be sincere...and yet be sincerely wrong. This was the case with certain Jews (**Rom. 10:2**). was the case with Paul (**Gal. 1:14; Phil. 3:6**).

May such never be the case with us! Let us humbly, sincerely, and rightly seek the blessings of God (**Col. 3:17**). Let us combine zeal with knowledge and submit to God’s righteousness.

Bart Warren
South Green Street church of Christ
Glasgow, KY

Don't Believe Everything You Think

I admit to a curiosity for bumper stickers. On occasion, one succinctly states a great truth or at least provokes reasonable thought.

Once I stopped at a light, and the car in front of mine had the sticker, “***Don't believe everything you think!***” The more I thought about it, that statement struck me as appropriate.

Often people reason, “*If I think it, it must be right.*” The press and the politicians seem to believe that if one repeats something often enough, even if it is wrong, people will believe it. When people decide that this propaganda is what they believe, then it must be right.

While the mores of society are in transition, morality is not. Society thinks that we have a new morality, but thinking it does not make it so.

In spiritual matters, the dangers and consequences are so much more serious because they affect the eternal.

Naaman made this mistake because things did not turn out as he thought they would. He became furious, saying, “*Indeed, I said to myself, ‘He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy’*” (**2 Kings 5:11**).

Because of his thinking, Naaman could have lost the opportunity for healing simply because what God, through Elisha, required was not what Naaman thought it should be. People reject God's plan of salvation because it differs from what they think. Different folks think that God ought to save them by certain means—faith only, sprinkling, good works. Others think God should save them in their sins, not from their sins.

Many become indignant when it is suggested that what they are practicing—whether in worship, works, or manner of life—does not have God's approval according to the Scriptures. The defense offered is that this is what attracts people, what pleases people, and what people think they should do.

A good reminder to all men is, “*My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,’ says the Lord. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts’*” (**Isaiah 55:8-9**).

Whether it is our judgments about our fellow man, about the world around us, or about our responsibility to God, remember that in every case truth should be the measuring standard. Please, do not believe everything you think!

Oran Rhodes