



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

January 13, 2019

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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

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Larry Brackett
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Todd Houston

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

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CREATIVE ACCOUNTING

During the time when Congress was not wanting to increase the debt limit, the Treasury Department used what is sometimes called extraordinary measures to extend the amount of time they had before the U.S. defaulted on its debts. This is what I call creative accounting. They will do things like rob the Postal Service pension fund in order to have a few more days before running out of money.

That reminds me of my time working with addicts. It was the same song just a different verse with addicts. Some had a tremendous monetary requirement in order to feed their addiction. A few of those indicated that their habit was over \$1,000 a day. First you sell what you can sell, then you cash in what you can of your savings, borrow all the money you can, rob your children's savings, steal from others, and usually end up dealing to others so that you can finance your habit. Doesn't that sound like the U.S. Congress?

Spiritually, folks like to use creative accounting also. We like to tell ourselves that we are good moral people who love the Lord. We pat ourselves on the back and say, "Look at me Lord. Aren't I a great person? I don't break the law. I take the moral high road. I am a productive member of society." And then I see the Lord saying, "You aren't fooling anyone but yourself."

In **Matthew 25:41-43**, the Bible says, *"Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels; For I was hungry, and ye gave me no meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not."*

Go and actively do good to those around you.

By Ken Hamilton

SILLY THINGS PEOPLE SAY

Religious people show intellectual silliness and shallowness when attempting to justify unauthorized religious practices. Some of the arguments used to approve such practices are not biblical but foolish. They reflect ignorance of the Bible. They reveal that somebody hasn't been reading God's word closely. From a casual reading of Scripture, a clear and unbiased mind is compelled to conclude the following:

That women teaching/preaching in public assemblies where men are present is forbidden (**I Corinthians 14:33-34; I Timothy 2:12**).

That failing to observe the Lord's Supper every first day of the week as worship to God is falling short (**Acts 20:7**); eating it on Saturday, or at weddings, or at funerals is going too far; unauthorized by Scripture.

That employing instrumental music in worship is unauthorized; the Bible says to sing; **not** play, **not** sing and play (**Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16**).

That baptism is by immersion; (that is the meaning of the word itself – to bury, to plunge, to submerge) (**Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12**). Sprinkling or pouring water on someone's head does not constitute a burial, and therefore does not qualify as baptism; it just can't; that shoe doesn't fit.

Now notice some of the silly attempts to authorize these unbiblical practices. Folks will say such things as:

"I don't see anything wrong with it." "I think it's okay." "I don't have a problem with it." "I like it." "I don't think it makes any difference to God."

A common denominator in each of these attempts to authorize is the word "I." It's amazing and absolutely astonishing what we can justify in our own minds by starting a statement with the word "I," as if what "I think" or "I like" constitutes authority in religious matters.

One lady from another church told me that she had been immersed but her husband had been sprinkled. She said, "I think that's okay." She went on to say that if she had to be baptized again she would be immersed, "Because that is how I was raised; but my husband would be sprinkled because that is what he prefers." Does it really just boil down to a matter of man's personal preference?

Actually, it boils down to God's preference. It has everything to do with divine authority (**Colossians 3:17**). It's a matter of obeying Jesus out of love (**John 14:15**). It's an issue of submitting to inspired Scripture (**II Timothy 3:16-17**). It's the resolve to accept only what is authorized (**Leviticus 10:2**). It's a call to self-denial (**Luke 9:23**). It's replacing pride with humility (**James 3:6, 10**). Rather than spout off silly sayings to justify religious practices, simply submit to God's Word in humble obedience.

By James Cudd