



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

January 3, 2016

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

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.

Email:

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Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

THERE IS NO OTHER

“The fullness of Him who fills all in all” (Ephesians 1:23).

Jesus is the focus of all truth. To properly understand the Bible, we must accept this fact without question. God tells us that in His Son *“are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2:3).*

Often there can be a veil before our eyes keeping us from understanding the Scriptures. This veil can be removed by looking to Jesus: *“Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away” (II Corinthians 3:16).* With spiritually uncluttered eyes it is easy to see that:

1. **Jesus is our only Savior.** Many believe they can be saved through the church or by having the right doctrines. Others believe they can be saved by just doing good things or simply by staying out of trouble. Now, while all these are extremely important, no one is saved except through Jesus. He said: *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6).*
2. **Jesus is our only foundation.** Only Jesus can be the foundation of our faith: *“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (I Corinthians 3:11).* Many buildings and houses are lost in storms and earthquakes because of weak or substandard foundations. With Jesus as our foundation we need not fear any problem in life or in death.
3. **Jesus is our only authority.** Many set themselves up as religious authorities or names in this world. The Jim Jones and David Koresh mentality abounds, even in the Lord’s church. But the Bible tells us that Jesus is *“King of kings, and Lord of lords” (I Timothy 6:15).* Jesus Himself said before He ascended to heaven, *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” (Matthew 28:18).* Peter said: *“Nor is there salvation in any other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).* Man-made names or authorities are not only unscriptural, they also detract from the honor that must be given to Jesus only.

Believe in Him and obey His commands. **(Mark 16:15-16; Hebrews 5:9).** **Bulletin Digest**

“COME DOWN FROM THE CROSS”

When Jesus was crucified there were some who mocked by challenging Him to “*come down from the cross*” (**Matthew 27:40**). The chief priests, scribes, and elders scoffed at the Lord by saying that they would believe on Him if He would “*come down from the cross*” (**Matthew 27:42**). Of course, Jesus had the power to accept their challenge. He could have called legions of angels to His rescue (**Matthew 26:53**). However, we should thank God and rejoice that Jesus did not accept the challenge to come down from the cross.

If Jesus had come down from the cross there would be no forgiveness of sins. Before Jesus went to the cross He said, “*For this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins*” (**Matthew 26:28**). We could never be free from the guilt, shame, and damning consequences of sin if Jesus had come down from the cross.

If Jesus had come down from the cross there would be no church. Paul said to the elders of the church at Ephesus, “*Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over that which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood*” (**Acts 20:28**). This verse makes it clear that the blood Jesus shed on the cross purchased the church. As previously noted, the blood Jesus shed on Calvary makes it possible for one to be saved from sin. This is simply another way of saying that the blood Jesus shed on Calvary makes it possible for one to become a member of the New Testament church. According to Scripture, every sinner who receives forgiveness is added, by God, to the New Testament church (**Acts 2:37-47**). This would not be possible without Jesus’ death on the cross.

If Jesus had come down from the cross there would be no reconciliation. Note, **Ephesians 2:16**: “*And that He might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby.*” In the context Paul is showing that Jews and Gentiles both have been reconciled to God in one body (the body is the church, **Colossians 1:18**) “*by the cross.*” To reconcile means “to bring back a former state of harmony.” Every person who has committed even one sin needs to be brought back to a former state of harmony with God. Sin separates us from God (**Isaiah 59:1-2**). How can one be brought back to fellowship with God? Paul’s answer is “*by the cross.*” Reconciliation would not be possible without Jesus’ death on the cross.

Yes, we should rejoice that when the cruel mob at Calvary challenged the Lord to come down from the cross, His undying and matchless love for man kept Him from accepting the challenge. If He had come down from the cross, how hopeless we would be!

Mark Lindley