



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

May 22, 2022

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Elders:

Kendall Bear
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Don Chandler

Deacons:

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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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Are You Missing Ingredients?

Recently we had a lot of bananas get really ripe, so I started to make a big batch of banana muffins. I took them out of the oven, gave them a taste, and realized right away that something was wrong. I had forgotten to add the butter. I had put the amount of butter called for by the recipe in a bowl and melted it in the microwave. There it stayed, forgotten, until I discovered my error. The muffins tasted...alright, but they weren't what they could've been if I had not failed to add this critical ingredient.

What is your missing ingredient(s)? In **Mark 10:17-22**, a man, described as a "*Jewish leader*" in **Luke 18**, comes to Jesus with an important question: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" After telling him to follow the law, the man asserted that he has done so since his youth. Jesus was able to seize upon the missing ingredient that he lacked, and he wasn't very happy about it.

What are we lacking? Are we even asking the question? Do we even want to know?

If you want eternal life then it is a question you must ask. Being a Christian is a process that begins upon obedience to the Gospel.

Paul the apostle suffered a great deal for Christ. We would describe him as a person of great faith, and unashamed of the Gospel. Yet he described himself as someone with more to do. In **Philippians 3:10-14** he says that he has not yet obtained eternal life and arrived at his goal. He says: "*I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*" If Paul says this, then we cannot sit on our hands and say we have no more work to do.

Therefore, it is necessary that we ask the question: What yet must I do? We should follow the lead of the rich young ruler and ask God about it. We should consult God's word, comparing ourselves to the recipe for life found there, and we should add whatever ingredients are missing to make ourselves all that we can be in service to our Lord.

Joshua Pettigrew
Monticello, AR

We Need a Light!

Recent destructive tornadoes in our country have caused me to think about how dangerous such storms are when they come in the dark of night. You can't look outside and see them coming!

When I was a kid, radar technology wasn't anywhere near the quality we have today. White blobs on a black background may have told you rainclouds were present, but you didn't know if there were dangerous storms in those blobs. Today, of course, we have Doppler radar which makes it much easier to see rotating storms, but there is still danger in the night when people are asleep or otherwise not paying attention.

Spiritually, there is great danger in the darkness, as well. In the obscurity of shadows, we might fall victim to many things:

Unseen Obstacles. *“The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble” (Prov. 4:19).* To keep us from tripping, we need a light! The word of God is the floodlight to keep us safe (**Psalm 119:105**).

Predators. Vicious hunters roam about at night to give themselves an advantage over their prey. Satan is a predator (**1 Peter 5:8**), and he wants to keep you in the dark. We need a light to see predators for what they really are (**John 3:20**).

Sin. How many evil deeds take place at night? Adulterers, thieves, and murders do their work in cover of darkness (**Job 24:13-17**), as do drunkards (**1 Thess. 5:7**). We need a light to expose darkness and keep us from sin (**Eph. 5:8-12**).

Doubt and Confusion. The Philippian jailor made a snap judgment based on incomplete information, almost committing suicide because he feared he had lost all his prisoners (**Acts 16:25-34**). Having already drawn his sword to end his own life, he stopped when Paul told him that everyone was still there. It was only after this that the jailor *“called for a light”* (**Acts 16:29**) to see for himself the true state of affairs. We need a light to get rid of doubt and confusion!

We need a light, and that light is Jesus the Christ. *“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life’” (John 8:12).* Are you walking in the light of the Lord?

Matt Clifton
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