



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

November 6, 2022

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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

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Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

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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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There Are Only Two Ways

Many times, we hear people today say, “*We are all headed for the same place, we are just going in different ways.*” In a sense this is true in that we are all headed first to the Judgment. The Bible says, “*And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.*” And **Romans 14: 10** says, “*For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.*”

After the Judgment we will not all end up in the same place. Jesus, in trying to warn us, says, “*Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it*” (**Matthew 7:13-14**). According to Jesus, the vast majority of people will be lost and eternally punished in the fires of Hell but only a few will go to Heaven. According to Jesus there are only two ways into eternity, the broad way and the narrow way. Each of us is walking either the wide and crowded road into Hell or the narrow road with the few who are determined to go to Heaven. There is no middle road.

The vast majority of people are not really concerned about being eternally lost, but the Bible warns us that, “*It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God*” (**Hebrews 10:31**). “*And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever*” (**Revelation 20:10**). Let’s choose the narrow road to eternal life in Heaven.

Ron Boatwright
via Coahoma church of Christ
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Tampering with the Election

Voter fraud is not new. We should not be surprised. Politics brings out the worst in people—pride, greed, lust for power, and dishonesty. Why would anyone think we have risen above ballot box manipulation? Many times in our history corrupt men have used intimidation, false registration, bribery, and vote alteration to steal elections. Perhaps just as often it is very hard to prove these crimes in court. The “winner” and “losers” are not always decided on a fair basis.

There is another election that is exceedingly more serious. The Bible says that Christians are the “elect of God” (Col. 3:12). Thankfully, we are not elected by a human vote. When we are baptized for the remission of sins, God adds us to the church (Acts 2:38, 47), Upon the basis of that decision God chooses or elects us. In fact, in a way above our feeble comprehension Christians are “elect according to the foreknowledge of God” (1 Pet. 1:2). That is the only election result that truly matters. There is attempted fraud in this spiritual election just as there is cheating in political elections:

Miscounting. Some teach that everyone or almost everyone will go to heaven. This is not true. Jesus said, “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matt. 7:13-14). There is no changing or cheating this fact of God’s election. Yet most talk about heaven as if all people will go there except the worst of the worst like Adolf Hitler or Jack the Ripper. Do people even know what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount?

Coercion. Others believe man has no part in the process of divine election. They say we can do nothing to be saved. If that is true, then we do not choose to be saved (or lost). God makes that choice for us according to this theology. Preachers teach this Calvinistic view of election when they say, “You can’t ‘do’ anything to be saved because Jesus did everything for your salvation when He died on the cross. You must wait for God to save you if you are one of His elect.” This is unbiblical. God “desires all men to be saved” (1 Tim. 2:4), but the choice is ours. “Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely” (Rev. 22:17).

Disqualification. God’s elect are not chosen unconditionally. Christians have the duty to remain faithful. Yet many believe a child of God can never fall from his elected position. Paul did not teach this. He said, “But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified” (1 Cor. 9:27). Christians sometimes overturn their own election.

There is a way to avoid any problem with this election. After listing the Christian graces, Peter said we should “be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble” (2 Pet. 1:10). That is election integrity.

*Kerry Duke
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