



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

October 17, 2021

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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

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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If one can be saved without faith, why did Paul say it was impossible to please God without it (**Heb. 11:6**)? If God promised to give faith when we ask for it, why are we told that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (**Rom. 10:17**)? If “*faith alone*” is a wholesome doctrine and very full of comfort, why did James say that faith without works is dead (**Jam. 2:26**)? If God has promised to save men regardless of the kind of faith they have, why did Paul make it so plain that there is “one faith” (**Eph. 4:4-6**)? If the Lord will save without baptism, why did He command it (**Acts 10:48**)? If the Lord has promised us salvation without baptism, why did Peter say that it saves (**1 Pet. 3:21**)? If sprinkling and pouring are scriptural baptisms, why did Paul say there is one baptism (**Eph. 4:4-6**) and that it is a burial (**Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:11-12**)? If we can receive remission of sins without baptism, why did Peter say baptism is for the remission of sins” (**Acts 2:38**)? If we can get into Christ without baptism, why did Paul say we are baptized into His body (**1 Cor. 12:13**)? Remember, the body and the church, are the same thing (**Col. 1:18**). If we can be born again of the Spirit only, why did Christ say to be born of water and the Spirit (**John 3:3-5**)? If infant baptism is scriptural, why did Christ command to baptize those who believe (**Mark 16:15-16**)? Remember, infants cannot believe. If infants are sinners, why did Christ teach that we must become like them to be saved (**Mat. 18:3**)? If God has promised salvation outside of the church, why did Christ die for it (**Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25-27**)? If the church has nothing to do about our salvation, why did the Lord add us to the church (**Acts 2:47**)? If men have the right to make laws and put them in the church, why did Christ say He had all authority (**Mat. 28:18-20**)?

Author Unknown’

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Some Things Not Optional in Religion

This article assumes man wants to do right, and wants to go to heaven.

"*Optional*" means that something is left to one's own discretion. That is, we can exercise the power of choice. It simply means we have a choice. When we say there are some things not optional in religion, we mean that man does not have a choice.

When we buy a car, we may or may not want a radio in it. It is optional! When we buy an appliance, the brand is optional. Indeed, even in religion there are many areas that are left to human judgment. As such, we may indeed choose. For example, God has left the time to meet on Sunday for worship up to us. Other optional matters include how many songs to sing in worship, how to get to worship, and where and how large our buildings are to be. Once matters are left to our judgment, we may believe about them as we wish. Although God does not want us to be arbitrary and selfish.

However, although we have this liberty in Christ, there are many areas about which we do not have a choice. For example, we do not have an option in believing the virgin birth of Christ, or in the miracles of Christ, including the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

Some Things Are Optional, and Some Things Are NOT Optional

In obeying the commands of Christ, we do not have an option. In fact, many commands of Christ are framed with the word "*must*," one of the strongest words in the English language.

Some examples:

- You must worship in spirit and in truth. (**John 4:24**)
- You must be born again. (**John 3:5**) This includes water and the Spirit.
- We must be saved by the name of Christ. (**Acts 4:12**)
- Except you repent you will perish. (**Luke 13:3**)
- The one who comes to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of the ones who diligently seek him. (**Heb. 11:6**)

There are two motives for doing God's will:

- "*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ;*" "*Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men;*" (**II Cor. 5:10-11**)
- "*If you love me, keep my commandments.*" "*Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words;*" (**John 14:15, 23-24**)

Let us always be found obeying in love the Lord's commandments.

Max Patterson, Bolivar, MO

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