



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

October 22, 2017

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:

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

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

HOW MUCH MUST I KNOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN?

How many lessons does it take to become a Christian? Let's look briefly at some Biblical examples:

- 3000 on Pentecost heard one sermon – **Acts 2**
- The Ethiopian Eunuch got one Bible lesson - **Acts 8**
- Cornelius and his family heard one lesson - **Acts 10**
- The Philippian jailer and his family heard one lesson **Acts 16**

What do I have to learn about? **Acts 8:35** reads. *“Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.”*

What specifically about Him? *“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the Gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,”* (**I Corinthians 15:1-4**).

What is so important about that Gospel? *“For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jews first and also for the Greek”* (**Romans 1:16**).

Why do I need it? *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (**Romans 3:23**), and that *“your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear”* (**Isaiah 59:2**).

What if I choose not to obey it? *“And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life”* (**Matthew 25:46**).

How do you take care of it? *“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit’”*

Any questions?

By Bill David Walker

THIS WORLD IS NOT MY HOME!

It just makes sense that the Lord's people should discuss their future destination. It also makes sense that we talk about heaven because of the terrible things that happen in our world which remind us that life is short.

As a favorite songs says, *"This world is not my home, I'm just a passin' through...my treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue. The angels beckon me from heaven's open door...and I can't feel at home in this world anymore."*

Heaven truly is "delayed gratification." Most folks never experience delayed gratification, and that's why most folks can't go to heaven.

As Christians, we are constantly tempted by the world to focus on the here and now – instant gratification. We live in a society of instant gratification, a society where people want to delay and defer absolutely nothing (except payments!). They certainly don't want to defer the gratification, they just want to defer the pain that goes with it. Take, for example, the credit card...oh how folks want what they want, when they want it so they use the plastic to get it! It's reflective of the attitude that says, "I want what I want and I want it now."

Folks are not into anything being put off into the future. We're into instant gratification. We want it now and we are glad to "sacrifice the future on the alter of the immediate." We don't want to wait for anything...the pleasure must be instant, immediate.

As a result of living in such a society – a society of materialistic indulgence – sometimes we Christians fall prey to that and we no longer have our affections set on things above, as **Colossians 3:1-2** tells us. Rather, we set our affections on instant sinful pleasure. It has become difficult for us to focus on a "hard to understand future home in the afterlife." As a result, sometimes we become less committed to laying up our treasure in heaven (delayed gratification), and more committed to laying up our treasure here (instant gratification). Let's fight that temptation!

Everything that is precious to us as Christians is in heaven! For example:

Our Father (**Matthew 6:9**).

Our Savior (**I Peter 3:20-21**)

Our Brothers & Sisters in the Faith (**Hebrews 12:22-23**).

Our Names (**Luke 10:20**)

Our Inheritance (**I Peter 1:3-4**).

Our Citizenship (**Philippians 3:20**)

Our Eternal Reward (**Matthew 5:10-12**)

Our Master (**Ephesians 6:9**)

Our Treasure (**Matthew 6:19-21**)

If we expect to go to heaven, we must delay gratification for the heavenly reward. Back in 2008, country music artist Kenny Chesney painted a picture in song of the desire for "instant gratification" that will cause many to miss heaven. Chesney sang:

"Preacher told me last Sunday mornin'/Son, you better start livin' right/You need to quit the women and whiskey/And carryin' on all night/Don't you wanna hear Him call your name/When you're standin' at the pearly gates?/I told the preacher, "Yes I do"/But I hope they don't call today/I ain't ready/Everybody wanna go to heaven/Have a mansion high above the clouds/Everybody wanna go to heaven/But nobody wanna go now."

Let's focus more on heaven and less on fleeting worldly pleasure!!!

By Michael Gilbert