



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

February 24, 2008

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

Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Omer Collins
Albert Griffin

Deacons:

Bobby Bear
Kendall Bear
Roger Carter
Don Chandler
Steve McCreary
Don Wicks

Minister:

Brad Tate, B.A., M.A.,
D.MIN

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 am

Email:

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YOU DO NOT BELIEVE

It is very peculiar that we, as a body of believers, are often accused of not believing in certain things. Here is a list of ideas that, from time to time, people claim about us:

1. "You are the folks who do not believe in miracles." This, of course, is not true. We believe in every miraculous event recorded in the Bible. We believe that God can perform any miracle he wishes to perform whenever he wishes to perform it. If we did not believe in miracles, we would not have hope, because the resurrection of Christ is the greatest miracle of all (**I Cor. 15:1-20**), and the coming of Jesus will be in a twinkling of an eye, so who is to say that they have ceased. The providence of God is still present in this day and time.

2. "You are the folks who do not believe in prophecy." This, of course, is not true. We believe in every Biblical prophecy recorded. We believe in prophecies concerning judgment and eternity yet to be fulfilled. We believe that the prophecies about Christ in the Old Testament were fulfilled in the incarnate God, who has accomplished His work (**John 5:39; Luke 24:44**).

3. "You are the folks who do not believe in music." This, also, is not true. We believe in every example of musical worship displayed by the New Testament church. We believe that this is the pattern we are obligated to follow (**Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 2:12**). If we added a musical instrument then we would be playing and singing, and God did not set that up as a pattern of our worship. In matters of specific authority, we are commanded to sing, not play; therefore, when you add something that is not an aid, then it is a sin.

4. "You are the folks who do not believe others are saved." This, of course, is not true. We believe "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (**Mark 16:16**), "...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (**Acts 2:47**), "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (**Acts 4:12**), that "...the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (**I Cor. 1:18**).

It is not that we do not believe in these things. It is simply that, concerning these, we choose to believe God's commandments, rather than man's opinion or if you are alright, then I am alright salvation. It is not about how WE feel, but rather how GOD feels, and what He feels is what we should obey because it is better to obey than to sacrifice.

“And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.” (I Samuel 15:22)

*For the defense of God,
Brad*

ARE YOU A PILLAR

OR A CATERPILLAR?

“...but encourage one another day after day...” (Hebrews 3:13)

Somebody once observed: “Church members are either pillars or caterpillars. Pillars hold up the church, caterpillars just crawl in and out.”

Christians ought to be doing more than crawling in and out. Conversion to Christ should make a difference in our lives – not only in *our* lives, but also in the lives of others as we lose ourselves in service to Christ and our fellow human beings. Jesus didn't die on a cross because I'm okay and you're okay. He died because there are some things about us that need to change. As someone noted, “If your religion leaves you unchanged, you need to change your religion.”

Titus 3:8-9 describes two kinds of religion. One will lead you to change, the other will leave you unchanged. The verses say “*This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men. But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.*” Note the two ways Paul rates religion: “Good and profitable” or “unprofitable and useless.”

Thirty years in the church of our Lord has taught me that some church members help hold up the church, some are content to crawl in and out, and a few seem bent on tearing and slowing it down. It should sober us to realize our religion can be “good and profitable” or “unprofitable and useless.”

Are you a pillar or a caterpillar? Three times in Titus 2:14-3:14 the apostle Paul emphasizes that Christians should stay busy working for the Lord. They should be “*zealous for good works*” (2:14); “*be careful to maintain good works*” (3:8); “*learn to maintain good works*” (3:14).

Colin Powell once observed, “Freedom to be your best means nothing unless you're willing to do your best.” Jesus Christ has given us freedom to be our best. At the cross, He “*gave Himself for us, that he might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.*” He freed us to be our best. Are you doing your best?

Are you holding up the church or just crawling in and out?

Dan Gulley