



What Must I Do to Be Saved?

- **Hear** the word of God (Romans 10:14-17; 1:16,17; John 17:17; Acts 11:14).
- **Believe** in Jesus Christ (John 3:16; Acts 16:30,31; Romans 10:9,10; Ephesians 2:8,9; I John 5:1; Galatians 3:26).
- **Repent** of past sins and turn to God (Luke 13:5; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 26:20; II Timothy 2:19).
- **Confess** Jesus before men (Matthew 10:32,33; Rom. 10:9,10; I John 4:15; Heb. 10:23).
- **Be Baptized** for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Romans 6:1-6; Galatians 3:26,27; I Peter 3:21).
- **Abide** in the word of God (John 8:31; 15:6,7; I Corinthians 15:1,2; Revelation 2:10; I John 1:9,10; Hebrews 10:24,25; John 4:24).

Faithful Sayings Issue 14.14 April 1, 2012

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Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.

- **Let us know if you have any questions.**

ISSUE

14.14

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

April 1
2012

Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Steve Dixon
Pat Goguen
Jack Langley
Neil Ledbetter
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Jason Garcia

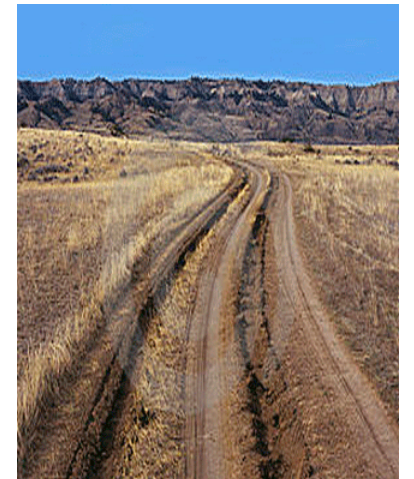


In Defense of "Ruts"

By Kyle Pope

In the old days before the automobile and paved roads the standard mode of travel was the horse and buggy. On those old dusty roads, worn bare by frequent travel it was not uncommon for a groove to develop where the wheels had run repeatedly. This gash, known as a *rut*, could prove to be quite treacherous to a driver unable to steer his buggy out of the rut.

In our day, the word "rut" is often used to describe an established pattern or routine. One who does the same thing repeatedly is said to be "stuck in a rut." This trait is often maligned as the



kind of behavior characteristic of one who lacks originality or creativity. Yet, consider for a moment a few benefits the Christian gains by being “stuck in a rut.”

When something becomes a pattern of conduct it may be for a very good reason. Unless we are talking about some type of addiction which is immoral or unlawful some-

thing may be repeated because we find it beneficial. When I was growing up my father’s favorite hamburger place was Burger King. Anytime we ate hamburgers, Burger King was the place. Now that may not have been something that involved much variety, but my father developed the practice because he found the food just as good one time as he did a hundred times.

In spiritual matters the same thing is true. We should never fool ourselves into thinking that something is only “real,” or “from the heart” if it constantly changes and puts on a different appearance. Jesus’ rebuke of the Pharisees “**vain repetitions**” is much more concerned with something becoming “vain” (i.e. meaningless) rather than the regularity of spiritual endeavors.

The Bible is filled with positive examples of “ruts.” Luke, speaking of Jesus says, “**So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read**” (Luke 4:16). The Holy Spirit says of Daniel, “**...he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days**” (Daniel 6:10). We learn that Paul, “**...as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures**” (Acts 17:2). He even taught the brethren - “**...stand**

fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle” (2 Thessalonians 2:15). These Apostolic “ruts” become binding examples to us, in that we are taught, “**The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.**” (Philippians 4:9).

Sometimes spiritual “ruts” can be the very things that sustain us and keep us faithful when we find that we are just in the habit of regularly assembling for worship or in the habit of studying regularly. A “rut” may help us to avoid temptation because we come to develop the habit of just not going to certain places, watching certain shows, engaging in certain practices or being around certain things. Addiction to positive things can be a wonderful trait. The household of Stephanas “**addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints**” (1 Corinthians 16:15, KJV).

The religious world believes that unless something is always different, daring and innovative it isn’t real. We must strongly guard against allowing such a spirit to influence us. Apostasy always begins with someone saying “let’s change it” or “let’s improve it.” Although



we must always do all that we can to worship and serve the Lord in spirit and in truth, an attitude of discontentment, which always demands change, does not come from a desire for true spiritual worship, but from a lack of personal spirituality.

