



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

August 12, 2012

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

Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Bobby Bear
Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary
Don Wicks

Minister:

Kirby Hinds

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

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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

SOFTER STANCES

Recently, I was contacted by a retiring minister. He said he had become an elder with the congregation and was given the job of seeking his replacement. We spoke for nearly an hour and things seemed fine until he asked me about certain doctrines. He was specific about a few and I quoted the scripture pertaining to them. He then told me he had preached for over 50 years and in the last 20 or so he had “softened his stance” on these key doctrines we discussed. He admitted he had no scripture for his position, he just “felt” differently now. I told him that I wouldn’t be a good fit and we parted ways.

Brethren, he unknowingly summed up one of the largest problems in the church. He and others would like to move God’s boundaries because of their unpopularity. **Proverbs 14:12**, *“There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.”* Solomon summed up God’s position of “softening” His doctrine. Jesus said in **Matthew 7:21** that not everyone who called Him, Lord, would go to Heaven but those who do His will. How can any serious minded person not understand the severity of ignoring God’s commands or “softening” them? “Softer stances” are going to bring warmer climates on Judgment Day if you know what I mean.

Of course, we all sin! **Romans 3:23** reminds us that we all fall short of the glory of God. But, there is a difference in occasionally stumbling and intentionally being disobedient or willfully ignoring what God has said.

Matthew 7:24-26, *“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock, And the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.”* Jesus was preaching in this passage about standing on the “soft” ground or soft stances. It won’t hold up!

I pray that we would all seek to build on the “rock” or true foundation. We can’t change it, only live by it. In the end, the climate will be better too!

Chris Moore

JEREMIAH'S PREACHING

By man's measure of a successful ministry, the prophet Jeremiah was a failure. He did not persuade a great number of idolatrous citizens of Judah to change their ways. His preaching did not save the city of Jerusalem from destruction like Jonah saved Nineveh. He was not even liked by the audience to whom he frequently preached. He was persecuted and imprisoned by his own people. If Jeremiah was seeking a pulpit position in the church today, his lackluster resume would likely not even earn him a tryout.

Yet, in spite of man's shallow, unspiritual assessment of this rabble-rousing preacher, God chose him to be one of the most illustrious of all His ministers.

Why? It was because, by the word of God, Jeremiah confronted his brethren's sins and made them see what they did not want to see. He used the word of God as a mirror that reflected through the self-deceptions and revealed their true nature. For instance in **Jeremiah 8:10-11**, he courageously spoke for God when he preached, *"From the prophet even to the priest everyone practices deceit. They heal the brokenness of the daughter of My people superficially, Saying, Peace, Peace. But there is no peace."*

This is what powerful preaching is supposed to do. It is suppose to *"reprove, rebuke, exhort"* (**II Timothy 4:2**). It is supposed to unsettle men's complacency. It is supposed to afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted. It is supposed to cause men to think, to honestly look into their lives and recognize what is wrong. It is supposed to compel all men to ask, "What have I done?" and repent (**Jeremiah 8:6**).

It is a good question as to whether the preaching in the church today disturbs us enough. It should. When we come to church and hear the Word preached, we should want to be challenged and provoked. We should want something to meditate upon through the week, something to be passionate about, even if the passion is anger and insult.

We need to encourage Jeremiah's kind of preaching. We need to come to church with the attitude that what is heard from the Bible changes us...for the better...to the glory of God.

Floyd Kaiser