



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

December 11, 2011

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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A PLACE WHERE THEY CARE

Sam Rayburn was a Democratic politician who served as the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives for 17 years, and is regarded by many as the most effective Speaker of the House in American history. Allow me to share with you some of his most memorable statements:

“Do not wait for extraordinary circumstances to do good action; try to use ordinary situations.”

“No one has a finer command of language than the person who keeps his mouth shut.”

“You’ll never get mixed up if you simply tell the truth. Then you don’t have to remember what you have said, and you never forget what you have said.”

When Harry Truman was thrust into the presidency at the death of FDR, Sam Rayburn gave him some fatherly advice. “From here on out, you’re going to have lots of people around you. They’ll try to put a wall around you and cut you off from any ideas but theirs. They’ll tell you what a great man you are, Harry. But you and I both know you ain’t.”

Later on, when Sam Rayburn discovered that he was quite ill, he announced to the House of Representatives he was going home for medical tests. Some wondered why he didn’t stay in Washington where there were excellent medical facilities. He supplied the answer when he told Congressman Jim Wright, “Bonham, Texas is a place where people know it when you’re sick, and where they care when you die.”

I like that last statement because I think it’s true of the church. We live in a world where people often don’t care what happens to others around them. Everyone is too interested in getting what they want to even notice what is going on in the lives of others. But the church is a place where people *“rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep”* (**Romans 12:15**). It’s a place “where people know it when you’re sick, and where they care when you die.”

God knows that we need a place like that – a group of people who share the same commitment to God that we have, a place where we will be loved unconditionally, a place where we can find shoulders to lean on and arms to comfort us in times of trial.

I hope that each and every one of you have a church family that serves that purpose in your life.

“We must continue to hold firmly to our declaration of faith. The one who made the promise is faithful. We must also consider how to encourage each other to show love and to do good things. We should not stop gathering together with other believers, as some of you are doing. Instead, we must continue to encourage each other even more as we see the day of the Lord coming.” (**Hebrews 10:23-25**).

Alan Smith

HAVE WE BECOME TOO BUSY?

It was Ben Franklin who said, “Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of.” What is time? Einstein said it is what the clock read. There is solar time, Atomic time, daytime, nighttime, local time, good times, and old times. The Bible says that Felix waited for a “*convenient time*.” Paul said that “*now is the accepted time*” (**II Cor. 6:2**), and that the “*time is short*” (**I Cor. 7:29**). James said “*life is but a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away*” (**James 4:14**). Every birthday is a milestone that we are quickly passing through the sands of this world. “*As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, and His righteousness unto children’s children; To such as keep His covenant, and to those that remember His commandments to do them*” (**Psalms 103:15-18**). We have learned that we can never go back, only forward in time.

Time comes from God, though God himself lives outside the boundaries of time. “*But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day*” (**II Peter 3:8**). Time began when God created the universe – “*And God called the light-day, and the darkness He called night. And the evening and the morning were the first day*” (**Genesis 1:5**). God created the stars in their courses that determines our hours, days, months, and years (**Genesis 1:16**). As the one who has control over time, God gives it out to us a moment at a time. Someday, we shall stand before God and turn in, as it were, a time card accounting for how we have used his gift (**I Cor. 4:2; Luke 16:2**). Are we good stewards of the “time” we have been given by God? We should all say with Moses, “*So teach us to remember our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom*” (**Psalms 90:12**).

We are to look to Jesus for our example (**I Peter 2:21**). Jesus was never too busy, and He did not waste time. He always took time to pray and meditate (**Luke 9:18**), to go to worship services (**Luke 4:16**), to give attention to the sick (**Gal. 6:9**), to rest (**Luke 8:22-25**), to give attention to the children (**Matthew 19:13-14**), and even found time to attend a social event, the wedding feast in Cana (**John 2:1-10**). Jesus was certainly the example we should imitate. Jesus was master over His time, and we should ever strive to be the same. “*Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil*” (**Ephesians 5:14-16**).

We should learn to prioritize the things in each of our lives, so that, our ultimate goal is fulfilled – to bring glory and honor to God through our service and daily offering (**Romans 12:1-2**).

Wayne Rodgers