



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

February 19, 2012

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
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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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THE DEVIL, WHO IS HE ANYWAY?

I believe it was the comedian Flip Wilson in his television show would say, “**The devil made me do it!**” Do we really know who the devil is, and how it is that he made us do it? Ole Flip never answered that question, but the Bible does.

First, we know that he is a tempter. Just look what he did to Eve in the garden back in **Genesis 3**. How he enticed her and caused her to sin. The devil is still a master of temptation today. Especially for the Christian, he wants to bring them back into his kingdom. He is an ever threat (**I Thessalonians 3:5**).

Yes, he rules his world, too. **John 12:31**. The ruler of darkness of this world is he that we fight our battles all the day long. “*For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*” (**Ephesians 6:12**).

This active, living being that is fallen of God is a threat to us all for he is a liar. “*...He was a murderer from the beginning and standeth not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar and the father thereof*” (**John 8:44**).

Not only that, but he is the enemy of God and man. Remember the parable of the tares of the field in **Matthew 13**; the devil is the one that sows that bad seed among the good seed of Christ. We see how this enemy will be handled in that the tares will be bundled up and burned in the fire.

He is our adversary, “*Be sober, be watchful; your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.*” (**I Peter 5:8**). Are you using sound judgment and watching so the devil won’t make you do it?

David Shearer, revised

I CAN DO IT ALL BY MYSELF

“I can do it all by myself!” Have you ever heard these words before, possibly from a child who is very independent? There are many times in life when we think we can handle everything on our own, whether it be job-related, church-related or otherwise. It’s great if you can tackle many projects at once, but is it always best?

Delegation is the word that comes to mind with this particular subject. Hesitation is also another word that comes to mind, because so often we hesitate to delegate! Why is it that we are hesitant to pass things off to others to keep us from being bogged down and becoming inefficient? It seems that pride and fear keep us from delegation; pride because we want to show people we can accomplish the task and fear because we don’t want to look like a failure for saying we need someone else to do it.

Consider the church. The role of servants (which I believe eventually developed into the role of deacons as described in **I Tim. 3**) came about as a result of the daily distribution of food needs which were threatening to take the apostles away from what they really needed to be doing. They needed to focus their efforts on prayer and the ministry of the word (**Acts 6:4**). It wasn’t that the apostles didn’t have the abilities to do this; rather it was that they needed to let someone else do it so they could fulfill their roles as apostles. This is called delegation; giving others responsibility to perform a certain task, and in turn it gets them involved in the work of the church. Though we don’t have apostles among us today, the elders of the church should focus on the spiritual aspects of shepherding by delegating other areas of work to the deacons.

Go way back in time with me to see one of the earliest examples of delegation. Moses had a lot of responsibility placed on his shoulders in leading the Israelites out of Egypt. There was a point in time where he not only was a prophet, but he was also acting as a judge to determine the outcome of disputes between the people (**Exodus 18:13**). When his father-in-law, Jethro saw what was happening by these judgments taking up so much of Moses’ time, he told Moses “*what you are doing is not good*” (v. 17). This not only was taking too much time but it was going to wear everybody out. Jethro recommended a plan of action that would allow Moses to appoint others to judge the cases of the people, but Moses would be consulted when there were hard matters upon which to decide. Because of the advice of Jethro, Moses was able to delegate and therefore take a heavy burden off of his back, per se. Never be afraid to delegate some task to someone else. Let go of the pride and/or fear that might cause you to help get someone else involved in the Lord’s work. **Delegate – don’t hesitate!**

Jeremy Butt