



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

February 24, 2013

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

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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BE STRONG AND VERY COURAGEOUS

“Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:6-9).

So often we let fear and doubt hold us back and we choose to stay where we are comfortable instead of dealing with uncertainty. We are creatures of habit and we like what is familiar to us, but sometimes we have to go beyond our own comfort zones and put our faith in God.

Here in the book of Joshua we see that God gives Joshua and us, a means to overcome doubt and fear. God tells Joshua three times to be “strong and courageous”; in essence: “don’t focus on what you can’t do; instead focus on what I can do for you.” Joshua could not have led the children of Israel if he relied solely on himself, but if he trusted God and followed His word, then God would deliver them the Promised Land.

It is no different for us today. We need to quit focusing on what we can’t do and start relying on what God will do for us. So many times we offer up excuses because we are afraid or uncomfortable, when in all reality we need to focus on God and let Him work in our lives. *“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13)*. I hear so many people use this verse in dealing with adversity, but not nearly that many use it when it comes to serving God. If God can strengthen me to make it through adversity, can’t He also strengthen me in areas of service to Him? It’s time for us to learn to *“be strong and very courageous.”*

Tim Campbell

WRONG IS ALWAYS WRONG

In a period of loose, sagging morals, Satan provides rationalizations for improper behavior. Those who would live faithful Christian lives must not be “*ignorant of his devices*” (**II Corinthians 2:11**).

WRONG IS WRONG even if you don’t get caught. Let us remember that “*the eyes of the Lord are in every place beholding the evil and good*” (**Proverbs 15:3**).

WRONG IS WRONG even if you do it for a good cause. The honorable purpose does not justify the dishonorable deed or action. The end never does justify the means. “*...for sin is a transgression of the law*” (**I John 3:4-5**).

WRONG IS WRONG even if others are doing worse things. It will be little comfort to you in the Day of Judgment, if you should be lost, that others you knew did things which you consider to be worse than your own sins.

WRONG IS WRONG even if it doesn’t bother your conscience. The conscience can be trained or educated to accept wrong doing, but even an honest sin or evil done in sincerity is sinful in the sight of the holy God. “*...whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap*” (**Galatians 6:7**).

WRONG IS WRONG even if it is commonly considered acceptable. “*Thou shalt not follow after a multitude to do evil*” (**Exodus 23:3**). The Christian should, “*Enter not unto the path of the wicked and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away*” (**Proverbs 4:14-15**). “*Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil*” (**I Thessalonians 5:21-22**).

WRONG IS WRONG even if you did not know that it was wrong or believe it to be wrong at the time the act was done. **Leviticus 4 & 5** deal with what is called “*unwitting*” sins in the American Standard Version. The King James Version translates these words, “*If a soul sin through ignorance*” (**Leviticus 4:2**). Peter in teaching the Jews on Solomon’s porch about the death of Christ stated, “*...know that in ignorance ye did it*” and then he commented, “*Repent ye therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out*” (**Acts 3:17-19**).

Eugene Greer