



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

January 13, 2013

P.O. Box 416
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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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“CART BEFORE THE HORSE”

The old saying, widely used to clarify priority, is probably lost to our younger people. It requires thought if not experience. Horses don't push do they? They pull. Therefore, even if we have all the right components, if they are not put together properly it is of no real value.

In **Romans 1:16** we are told that the gospel is God's power unto salvation. In **Matthew 28:18-20** we are told to spread it. In the first century, people believed it and did it, at least some did. Today, people believe that and do it. At least some do. The wild success of the first century compared to growth that is mediocre at best today, is a curiosity to me.

To unravel this in my mind I first look at differences. With few exceptions, they were poor and had nothing but their lives and their mouth. We on the other hand have money, comfort, mass media, postal service, cell phones, computers, etc. From a logical point of view, the success rate should be higher in our time. But, it isn't.

Churches now have power point. You don't even have to look at the preacher, nor does he have to look at you. The youth have tons of specialty programs meant to hold appeal. However, it seems all they are learning is that churches must have appeal. Where is the knowledge? Well, Tim, you can have both you know? Yes, we could, but we don't. No?

Ask some kids that you know some simple Bible questions. This assumes that you know the answers yourself. I tell you, believing is under constant threat unless you know why you believe. Teaching becomes non-existent without fervor of commitment. The first century church saved souls because they loved souls. They had nothing but the Word and the belief that it was true. That's all they needed. That's all we need today. Programs and comfort are great, but that's not going to get you through a death or divorce. There must be enough knowledge of the doctrine and nature of God to create a change in your life and therein lies the problem. If the power of God doesn't cause a change, then you don't have it. Stop trying to make the message appeal to people. It does already to those who want hope. Those people died rather than give up that hope and we have trouble getting people to Bible study who will then show up for worship to profess their loyalty.

Tim Turpin

TAKE COURAGE, BROTHER

One characteristic that has always been needed in the Christian life is courage. It requires courage to stand against the world. It takes courage to do that which is right, especially when those all around you are doing wrong. Courage is necessary sometimes to say “no,” when others are saying “yes.” Much courage is needed to be “*different*,” “*peculiar*” or “*distinct from the world*.”

Jesus manifested courage in all that He did. He tasted “*death for every man*” (**Hebrews 2:9**). We know “*while we were sinners, Christ died for us*” (**Romans 5:8**). He was the beginning with God (**John 1:1**), yet “*He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross*” (**Philippians 2:8**).

In writing to the Thessalonians, Paul said: “*But even after we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention (in much conflict)...For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloak of covetousness: God is witness*” (**I Thessalonians 2:2, 5**). The apostle Paul spoke the word of the Lord with boldness.

At times we may lose friends by standing for the truth. Some followers of Jesus thought His teaching was “*a hard saying*” and “*many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him*” (**John 6:60-66**). Friends may turn their back on us because we stand for the truth. In this, we are suffering no more than our Lord suffered.

Boldness is defined as “*fearless and daring, courageous*.” Paul asked the Ephesians to pray for him “*that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am in bonds: that herein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak*” (**Ephesians 6:19-20**). Twice in that passage, Paul asked for prayers that he might speak, “boldly,” even “in bonds,” and he went further to say this is how he “ought to speak.” If speaking in boldness or with courage is the manner in which the apostle Paul “ought” to have spoken, surely that is how we “ought” to speak the truth.

Let us manifest courage in our daily walk, whether in proclaiming the truth, standing for what is right, or making those decisions that we must face day by day. It will always take courage to do right.