



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

January 6, 2013

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

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

Email:

rockwdcc@earthlink.net

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

WHAT DO YOU KNOW THAT IS GOOD?

This preacher heard brother Leroy Brownlow speak many years ago at the Freed-Hardeman Lectures. In the course of that particular presentation, he spoke of another preacher, saying, "It was rumored about him (and who am I to question a rumor?)..." There was great laughter as the humor of the eloquent, veteran gospel preacher hit a little closer to home than we might have liked to admit. The reality was that most of us wanted to hear what had been rumored. Sorry, but that part of the story has been forgotten by this writer.

While Jesus was teaching, preaching, healing and casting out demons, the word about him was spreading. In the American Standard Version of Luke's record, the Bible says, "*And there went forth a rumor concerning him into every place of the region round about*" (**Luke 4:37**). The word translated "rumor" in this passage is the Greek word from which we get our word, "echo." The King James translators choose the word, "fame." Whichever word we prefer, the idea is found in our familiar phrase, "Good news travels fast."

The apostle Paul summarized the objective of a Christian's words when he wrote, "*Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers*" (**Ephesians 4:29**). Instead of rumors that cast doubt on another's character, or stories and jokes that ought never be told by Christians (see **Ephesians 5:3-4**), should we not make it our ambition to tell things that are good, and even things that communicate grace?

Jesus gave us the key to achieving this goal: "*...for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh*" (**Matthew 12:34**). Fill the heart with good things, and good words will overflow from the mouth. So Paul wrote in **Philippians 4:8**.

J. Brooks Boyd, Jr.

HAND-CLAPPING & SINGING “HAPPY BIRTHDAY”

With far too many brethren, a “pep-rally” atmosphere permeates their concept of being spiritual. Even the worship service is not off limits. I frequently hear of congregations (who, in the past, have enjoyed a reputation of being sound in the faith) allowing hand-clapping and the singing of “Happy Birthday” at baptisms. Recently, when asked about the authority for such practices, the preacher replied that it was a happy occasion and there was nothing wrong with what they did. Notice, please, no Biblical authority (**Colossians 3:17**) was cited to support the innovations! When the elders were approached about the matter, they did not like it, but could find nothing wrong with it Biblically. By the “reasoning” of such brethren, ‘whistling’ and the ‘stomping of feet’ would be just as acceptable! I am amazed at such outright ignorance of God’s word and overt refusal on the part of elders to immediately stop the mouth of the gainsayers (**Titus 1:9-11**).

In **Philippians 4:9**, the inspired Paul wrote, *“These things, which ye have both learned and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.”* One thing is for certain; brethren who have brought in these innovations did NOT learn, receive, hear and see in Paul or other inspired men’s writings any Biblical authority for such practices! Such practices came from the denominational world and so-called “youth ministers” in the Lord’s church!

Not long ago (9/13/10), brother Gary Colley, evangelist for the Getwell church of Christ in Memphis TN, wrote the following in their bulletin which needs wide circulation throughout the brotherhood.

We have had several questions (from at least two states recently) concerning whether hand-clapping, “Praise Teams,” singing “Happy Birthday” at baptisms, and singing during the Lord’s Supper were Biblically right. Basically, they are WRONG because we do not have the Lord’s permission to practice such (**Matt. 28:20**) any more than we have authority to add instrumental music to our singing or buttermilk and corn bread to the Lord’s Table. We are to do all things in the authority of Christ (**Col. 3:16-17; II John 9-11**), and again we say these practices do not have Heaven’s approval. They are introduced by those who have more zeal than knowledge, it seems (**Romans 10:1-2**). These are, therefore WRONG for the following reasons: (1) We have no authority from Heaven. (2) They produce division and confusion. (3) They do not contribute to orderly and decent worship (**I Cor. 14:40**). Can anyone imagine one clapping around the cross? Some want to clap when one is baptized into the death of Christ (**Romans 6:3-4**). Clapping at a sporting event is in order, but in worship it is out of order! Some want to sing while taking the Lord’s Supper when they should be thinking about and remembering the death of Christ. They are mixing two items of worship, both of which demand, separately, our devoted thinking (**Acts 2:42**). “Brethren, these things ought not so to be”

Brethren, mark it down, the practices discussed in this article, if continued, opens the door to the raising of “holy hands” and dancing in the aisles as an expression of Christ living in us. That will never happen here, some may say. But bear in mind, that’s precisely what brethren said about hand-clapping, singing “Happy Birthday” at baptisms, etc.! Scriptural worship involves reverence, NOT revelry!

It’s time for elders to stop these worldly practices or else resign! *“O earth, earth, earth hear the word of the Lord”* (**Jer. 22:29**)

Ivie Powell