



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

June 24, 2012

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

Email:

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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

ARE YOU LISTENING?

Back in the days before refrigerators, people used icehouses to preserve their food. Icehouses had thick walls, no windows, and a tightly fitted door. In winter, when streams and lakes were frozen, large blocks of ice were cut, hauled to the icehouses, and covered with sawdust. Often the ice would last well into summer.

One man lost a valuable watch while working in an icehouse. He searched diligently for it, carefully raking through the sawdust, but didn't find it. His fellow workers also looked, but their efforts, too, proved futile. A small boy, who heard about their fruitless search, slipped into the icehouse during the noon hour and soon emerged with the watch. Amazed, the men asked him how he found it.

"I closed the door," the boy replied, "laid down in the sawdust, and kept very still. Soon I heard the watch ticking."

Too many times, the question is not whether God is speaking, but whether we are being still enough, and quiet enough, to hear. There are so many times when God is giving us plenty of answers but we are missing them. We are so busy hearing our own voice, making a racket and thrashing around and only hearing ourselves. Sometimes we just need to stop...be still...and wait quietly. When the day has been long and challenging, when it has seemed as though nothing has gone right, when you are frustrated and hurt and feeling anguished, how do YOU handle it?

"Meditate in your heart upon your bed, and be still..." Psalm 4:3-5.

Darrell Tucker, adapted

“HOW COULD YOU DO THIS?”

Jonah 1:10

The story of Jonah attempting to run from the presence of the Lord and being gulped down by a great fish is one of the most memorable of the Bible. There is hardly a child whose attention is not riveted by it. There is not an adult who cannot learn from it.

For instance, when Jonah was trying to escape his responsibility to God by taking a ship in another direction, the sailors discovered by casting lots and then by Jonah’s own confession that he was to blame for the storm that the Lord hurled against them. They learned that Jonah’s choices were threatening them all. His behavior was about to sink the ship.

When understanding that the preacher was honestly to be blamed, they exclaimed “**How could you do this?**”

In the story we have the innocent sailors expressing their indignation and offense at Jonah. One can imagine them jumping about with their arms flailing in frustration. They simply could not understand why anyone would think that he could run from the presence of the Lord! Such decisions did not make sense! The outcome will inevitably be tragic!

While we may not always feel the immediate peril that was felt by these sailors in Jonah’s story, many of us today still feel the same frustration and indignation at the choices of so many around us.

For example, we see young and old alike coming out of liquor stores and we sense that they are not there to buy cooking sherry. Theirs is a more sinister aim. They want escape from responsibility and the numbing high that alcohol can provide. However, knowing the lives that drinking has ruined and the senseless accidents it has caused, we think, “**How could you do this?**”

In convenience stores, we can see people who obviously are not blessed materially and who might even have a couple of children trailing behind, laying considerable amounts of money on the counter to gamble. They desire to circumvent hard work and leave their financial well-being to chance. But, we think, “**How could you do this?**” Do they not know that the odds are not in their favor – to win the lottery it is something like 265 million to 1? Do they not know that they are giving their future to others?

The list of examples is endless. Infidelity, drugs, violence, dishonesty, and crime are all around us. We live in a slush-pond of dumb choices. We look at much of our culture and ask, “**How could you do this?**”

Thank God, for good decisions made.

Floyd Kaiser