



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

March 11, 2012

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
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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DID NOAH GROW WEARY?

Do you ever become “weary in well doing?”

You know what is the right thing to do. You apply your energy to do your very best. You remember the words of the apostle Paul, saying “...*whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men*” (**Colossians 3:23**). You try to comply. But after a while, the daily grind begins to take its toll.

The motivation is right. You are committed to serving the Lord – but sometimes the work seems so vast and your talents so limited. Then the question arises, “What’s the use.”

I wonder if ol’ Noah ever got discouraged? He must have preached for over one hundred years. The results were very meager, but he continued to be a preacher of righteousness. Do you suppose he was ever tempted to say, “I’m going to quit! It’s obvious my preaching is a waste of time!” Most Christians have run up against that wall at one time or another.

And think about that ark. It was no weekend project. I can almost hear Noah saying after about sixty years of constant work, “I’m never going to get this thing finished. Did God really tell me to build something this big, or was I dreaming? I’ll be fortunate if the termites don’t eat it up before I’m done.”

Sometimes the magnitude of the work before us causes us to lose heart. Self-appointed critics dull our enthusiasm. A seeming lack of progress in obtaining results weakens resolve and causes us to feel like a spinning top slowly winding down and ready to topple over.

It’s good then to pause and hear Noah sawing, hammering, and preaching!

“*And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not*” **Colossians 6:9**

John Gipson

JESUS IS SUPERIOR TO ANGELS!

Angels intrigue us. What do they look like? Do they really wear white, flowing robes and have large wings and halos? Hollywood produces movies occasionally whose theme is that a deceased person comes back as an angel who rights some injustice or helps some disadvantaged person. In such presentations, “angels” frequently appear a little harried, inept or even irreverent. One must remember, however, that Hollywood gets very little correct when it comes to the Bible.

Angels appear from time to time in the Biblical narrative. While not always destructive, they are anything but inept. King David saw an angel with a drawn sword stretched over the city of Jerusalem (**I Chronicles 21:16**). An angel sent from the Lord killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in a single night (**Isaiah 37:36**). An angel assisted Elijah (**I Kings 19**) and it was an angel who shut the mouths of the lions and saved the life of Daniel (**Daniel 6:22**).

During intertestamental history, the Jews became very interested in angels for the same reasons that we are. When the author of the book of Hebrews wrote to Jewish Christians, he began by asserting the superiority of Jesus Christ over angels. Note the description of Jesus which appears in the first few verses of the first chapter of the book (**Hebrews 1:1-4**). Jesus is “*heir of all things,*” and “*the brightness of His [the Father’s] glory and the express image of His [the Father’s] person.*” He is the agent of creation and the sustainer of our world. Finally, Jesus has “*by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they [the angels]*” (**1:4**).

The writer of Hebrews supported his affirmation of Jesus’ superiority over angels by noting that Jesus is given in the Scriptures a position which no angel ever occupied! Angels worshipped the baby Jesus and are basically servants (**1:6-7**). They are ministering spirits (**1:7, 14**). In contrast, the Father has announced Jesus as His Son and anointed Him as a righteous King (**1:5, 8-9**). Jesus is identified as Deity (**1:8** – “*your throne, O God...*”), Creator and given a position of honor at the right hand of the Father (**1:10-12, 13**).

The writer of Hebrews used an interesting form of argumentation to make his point about the relative position of angels to the Son of God. Twice he asked the question “*To which of the angels did He ever say...*” and then quoted a statement which WAS directed to the Son (**1:5, 13**). The answer to his question is that God never said these things to any angel, implying that no angel could assume such a position as the Son occupies in light of God’s silence! How many times has man defended his own behavior, stating that God had not expressly prohibited such action? If God’s silence did not permit angels to presume to act according to their own whim, do we who are made a “*little lower than the angels*” (see **Hebrews 2:6-7**) dare to treat God’s silence as permission? **Allen Dvorak**