



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

March 24, 2013

P.O. Box 416
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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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WHILE HE LINGERED

The Bible gives us a glimpse into the heart of Lot just prior to God's execution of judgment upon Sodom and Gomorrah. It's quite revealing and worthy of our consideration. It reads, "*And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city. And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city*" (**Genesis 19:15-16**). "While he lingered..." To linger means "to question or hesitate (by implication) to be reluctant, delay, stay, tarry."

Many today make the same mistake Lot made many centuries ago; that is, they linger in sin. Sin separates man from God and its wages equal death (**Isaiah 59:1-2; Romans 6:23**). With one's eternal soul at stake, why then would they linger? Consider what happens when one chooses to linger in sin:

- 1. The heart grows colder/harder.** No wonder inspiration warns against such (**Hebrews 3:13; 4:7; I Timothy 4:2**).
- 2. Opportunities to obey become fewer.** Lot was quickly running out of time, and so too are we! Many wait for that "convenient season" (**Acts 24:25**), but there's no promise of its coming (**James 4:14**). Today is the day of salvation (**II Corinthians 6:2**)!
- 3. Our condition remains hopeless.** As long as he remained in Sodom, Lot's condition remained hopeless. And such is the condition of those who remain in sin (**Isaiah 59:1-2; Ephesians 2:11-13; II Thessalonians 1:7**).
- 4. The family we love suffers.** Lot's family suffered mightily, and much of their suffering was a result of his lingering. Sin not only affects us individually, it too affects us collectively (**Genesis 3:1; II Samuel 11:1; Joshua 6:1; I Corinthians 5:1**).

I think it fitting to close with a few words from an old hymn we sometimes sing:

"Why do you wait, dear brother? The harvest is passing away;
Your Savior is longing to bless you: There's danger and death in delay."
Don't delay, obey God today!

Terry R. Townsend

OUTWARD APPEARANCES

“Oh, how horrible our sins look when they are committed by someone else!”

Chuck Smith

It’s so hard to keep our eyes on ourselves rather than to compare ourselves with others, isn’t it? We CAN be too hard on ourselves as we live in a world where it’s normal to compare ourselves with everyone else. On the flip side, our perception of others can also be distorted by our culture of comparison.

We struggle to look at ourselves and others through God’s viewpoint, so we often undervalue ourselves, and judge others too harshly. The Book of **James** hits on this idea in chapter 2 where we find stern warnings about judging by appearances, and are encouraged to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

James wrote: *“For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothes comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place, while you say to the poor man, You stand over there, or sit down at my feet, have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?” (James 2:2-4).* While we forget that all people: rich, poor, black, white, male, and female were made in the image of God, we might judge in this same way. But the truth is God would have us love each other and see each other as equals. We should pray for God to instill in us HIS love for others – in addition to asking Him to help us see ourselves the way He sees us, too.

When we commit the sin of favoritism (**James 2:9**), we are robbing ourselves and others of the joy that we experience every day when God and others love us in spite of our flaws. Every person would like to change something about himself or herself, yet there is someone who still loves each of us. Give that gift to yourself and those around you.

Darrell Powell