



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

May 19, 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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HOW THE ROMANS WON THE WAR AND LOST THE PEACE

William Barclay, in his commentary on **I Thessalonians**, states that during the period of the Roman Republic, the Romans had not a single divorce for a 520 year period. However, as they moved away from the Republic into more of a socialistic empire, things began to change. Although they had previously conquered the Greeks militarily, the Greeks "Grecianized" the Romans in terms of morality. The fornication, homosexuality, and related sins of Corinth are an indication of this Grecianization in the first century.

Similarly, the American Republic has also moved further and further away from personal responsibility toward more collectivism – arrangements whereby we are subject to many more laws, regulations, institutions, and bureaus designed to do what was previously done by individuals. We are now suffering the same dissolution as did ancient Rome: our morals, our patriotism, our self-esteem, our productivity, and, of course, our homes have deteriorated.

There is little that individuals can do to change a major tide of history, but we can form our families and our characters according to the ancient standards of God, as recorded in the Bible. We do not have to go along with the crowd. We do not have to salivate like Pavlov's pups simply because the culture in which we live rings a bell of conformity. We can resist the fornication, lies, indolence, and dishonesty around us. We can form marriages with like-minded Christian people and live faithfully ever after. We can nurture our children in the chastening and admonition of the Lord.

Of course, as Lot could tell you, it's difficult to keep our family standards intact in Sodom and Gomorrah. Yet, it's not impossible. Remember, "*He that is in us is greater than he that is in the world*" (**I John 4:4**)

Bert Mercer

PUNCTUALITY

Punctuality is the practice of being prompt, especially in keeping an appointment or engagement; it is observing, or doing, at the precise exact time.

There are some responsible souls out there who can be depended upon to do whatever they are expected or asked to do at the very time they are supposed to do it. And then there's me; and maybe you, too. There is virtually no difference between the punctual person and the one who is habitually late, save for this: the person who is prompt realizes and fully appreciates the value of time.

The person who is on-time has the exact same amount of seconds, minutes and hours in a full day that everyone else has; they just use and budget that time more wisely, more efficiently. Are the people who complain about not having enough time far busier than those who are punctual? Of course, such could be the case, but the more probable likelihood is that they have adopted the habit of "putting off."

We read that God's word encourages us to make the most of our time; to use the time we have wisely, and to make sure we prioritize properly. As we read in Jesus' parable of the ten virgins, we see the dangers in "putting off." In **Matthew 25:1-10** we read that when the bridegroom finally came to call his guests into the feast, the foolish virgins were not where they were supposed to be because of procrastination and poor prioritization. They were late to the party, and by the time they arrived, *"the door was shut."* We read that they were not welcomed as guests because of their irresponsibility. *"Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, open the door for us! But he replied, Truly I tell you, I don't know you. Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."*

The apostle Paul told the Colossians to *"Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time"* (**Colossians 4:5**). Also, to the **Galatians**, he wrote: *"Let us not grow weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart"* (**Galatians 6:9**).

The time we have here is a great blessing, one of the greatest we have, and we need to be better stewards of it. Using the time God gives us wisely is a trait we can all acquire, because punctuality is just a habit, not an inherent behavior; it's a choice that we all make.

Britain's greatest naval commander, and possibly the greatest military leader in that country's long history, Lord Admiral Horatio Nelson once testified, "I owe all my success in life to having been always a quarter of an hour beforehand." Fifteen minutes made all the difference in the world in the success of this man, and in turn, all the difference to a whole nation. We can't know what affect even the smallest amount of time can have in our lives; we should not be careless with it.

To make punctuality one of our traits we very well might have to take stock of our life and see if we *"make the most of our time,"* as Paul advocates. If we regulate our hours to do our work *first*, and then use leftover time for us as our own to do with as we please, we may find that much of our work can get done promptly and the time belonging to us will be more pleasant than when we are trying to take our leisure first and delay our responsibilities.

Paul Seely