



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

May 27, 2012

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
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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MEMORIAL DAY THOUGHTS

By Tim Tripp, revised

A while back I had the pleasure of reading through some letters that were written by a relative of mine in or around 1864. His name was Joseph Tripp and he was in the Ohio First Heavy Artillery Battalion if memory serves me correctly. At the time the letters were written, his battalion was attached to General Grant's Army and was moving down the Mississippi to turn east and attack a rebel stronghold in Jackson, MS. He never made it to Jackson. As with many Civil War soldiers, he died of dysentery while on the way. I can't imagine what it must have been like for his mother and father to know he was in harm's way and wonder each day whether he was alive or had fallen for the cause of keeping the United States united. I can't imagine how the news of his untimely demise must have affected them. Along with his letters his family preserved the letter they received from the Army informing them that Joe had died. He was never married and had no children. Since the discovery of these precious papers, my family speaks of this man often and we honor his bravery and his memory.

I spoke with a family recently who had a son in Afghanistan. They too were daily struggling with wonder and anxiety over whether he was alive or not. They stopped watching the news when it seemed all they were reporting was the bad news. They were very relieved when their son returned unharmed.

Sometimes the families of soldiers are overlooked when the "thanks for the sacrifice" speeches are made. This is not to diminish the genuine sacrifice and risk taken by our soldiers for our freedom and to protect us both home and abroad. The families suffer through a lot of anxiety and often spend much time in prayer for their loved ones in the military. They wait for news and hope it will always be good news. When bad news is received, it is they who are left with the grief and burden of the sacrifice that was made for our country.

We are proud of these young men and women and their service to our country. I know their families are proud of them too. We pray for their safety and that God will be with them wherever they go in their service to our great nation. Our members who are serving, or have sons or daughters (or grandchildren) in the active military are **Sgt. Scott Staggs**, & Jack & Shirley Dickson's grandson, **Eli Dickson**. Eli came home from Afghanistan the end of February; he is now at Ft. Campbell.

Be Careful Where You “PITCH YOUR TENT”

Abraham’s nephew Lot is a very interesting study in many areas. One of those areas can show us how sin can work its evil in our lives. It can be seen in the various places Lot finds himself and how his condition worsens each time. You may remember that when Abraham gave him a choice of which way he and his herdsmen would go, “Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere,” and “chose for himself all the plain of Jordan” (**Genesis 13:10-11**). From this point on, it is very interesting to note the places where Lot ends up. From them, we can learn the progressive and aggressive nature of temptation and sin.

First, we see Lot pitching his tent “toward Sodom” (**Genesis 13:12**). This meant that he set up camp in the direction of Sodom. Every day he went about his business, Sodom may well have been in sight, and Lot may have indeed been tempted to move ever closer toward Sodom’s wickedness.

We next see Lot dwelling in Sodom (**Genesis 14:12**). By this time, Lot had moved into Sodom and was likely being influenced by the citizens’ wickedness in even greater proportions, since he was living amongst them.

Finally, we see Lot sitting at the gate of Sodom (**Genesis 19:1**). No longer was he simply a resident of that wicked city, he was apparently a leader of it (or at least in association with the leaders). The city gates are where the elders and city officials sat and conducted business. While compared to Sodom’s standards, Lot remained righteous (**cf. II Peter 2:7-8**), the fact remains that by this time Lot had become quite influenced by evil. Else why would he call the Sodomites “brethren” (**Genesis 19:7**) or offer his daughters to be used sexually at the Sodomites’ wildest whims (**Genesis 19:8**)?

I realize that some of what I have written is conjecture. We do not have all of the facts to know what was in Lot’s intentions or heart. But I do know this: the closer we dwell to sin, the easier it becomes to commit sin. And remember this – it all begins with where you pitch your tent. *“But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.”* (**James 1:14-16**).

Edd Sterchi