



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

November 18, 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

Email:

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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

GIVE THANKS UNTO GOD

Psalms 136:1-3

Thanksgiving Day is right around the corner. This is a day to spend with family and friends, eating a good meal (or feeding the hungry), and taking time out of our lives to remember the many blessings that God has given us.

Throughout the book of Psalms, students of God's word are admonished to show thankfulness unto God. Here in **Psalms 136**, the inspired poet gives compelling reasons why we should "*give thanks unto the LORD.*"

First the psalmist states in verse one, "*O give thanks unto the LORD for He is good; for His mercy endures for ever.*" Goodness and mercy go hand in hand! If not for the goodness and mercy of our Heavenly Father, none of us would be here today. He first extends His mercy to Adam and Eve, when after they sin in the garden, that He promises to crush the head of Satan through the seed of woman (**Genesis 3:15**). Little did they know then that God would come to earth and die for the sins of the whole world, so that we might once again reunite in that spiritual Eden, heaven (**Revelation 22:1-5**).

In **Psalms 103:8-11**, the author reminds us of His tender mercy. "*The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will He keep His anger for ever. He has not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him.*" God's mercies are "*renewed every morning*" (**Lamentations 3:23**). The same mercy was demonstrated by sending Jesus to be the Savior of the world. In Jesus' parable of the Pharisee and the Publican in **Luke 18:9-14**, the tax collector prays unto God, "*God be merciful to me a sinner.*" On one occasion certain Pharisees condemn Jesus for eating with "*publicans and sinners*" (**Matthew 9:11**). Jesus teaches them: "*They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go you and learn what that means, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance*" (**Matthew 9:12-13**).

Thanks be to God for His goodness and mercy. I hope and pray that we are not guilty of giving thanks unto God only once or twice a year, but may we give thanks unto Him daily for every good and perfect gift He sends us (**James 1:17**).

Oneida church of Christ

SWEET WORDS

Sweet words lift our spirits and strengthen our souls. We love to hear them because they feel good as they bless us. We gravitate toward people who speak sweet words. I hope we also imitate those people and their words. Just as destructive words carry tremendous power for evil, sweet words – truthful, loving, gracious words – carry tremendous power for good.

What a joy to catch somebody using sweet words to promote unity and harmony. What a blessing to enhance the joy by remembering to say, “Thank you for being a peacemaker. Jesus pronounced a blessing on people like you (**Matthew 5:9**). Solomon wrote about people like you (**Proverbs 15:1**). So did Paul (**Ephesians 4:29**). I’m glad I know you. You encourage me.”

What a joy to catch somebody using sweet words to promote faithfulness and spiritual growth. What a blessing to enhance that joy by remembering to say “Thank you for reminding me of the truth of **Philippians 2:1-4** and **Hebrews 10:24**. I’ve noticed how you consistently look for ways to help others through your words. I want you to know how much I appreciate the way you bless others.”

What a joy to catch somebody using sweet words to teach a child or a fellow struggler. I know that none of us teach perfectly, but sometimes God blesses us with the right words at the right time and we experience the joy of **Proverbs 25:11**. What a blessing to enhance that joy by remembering to say, “My, that was well done. I see the spirit of Christ in your words (**Acts 4:13**). You make the people around you better. I thought of **I Peter 4:7-11** when I heard you teaching.”

What a joy to catch somebody using sweet words, gently and wisely, to warn and challenge a brother who is in spiritual danger. What a blessing to enhance that joy by remembering to say, “Thank you for your courage. I know it would have been easier to keep silent (**Galatians 2:11-21, 4:16**).”

“Thank you for knowing that loving words of warning are sweet to God’s ears. Thank you for your wisdom and balance (**Proverbs 26:3-4**). Thank you for listening before you spoke (**Proverbs 18:13; 29:20**). Thank you for saying enough without saying too much (**Proverbs 10:19-21; 29:11**). Thank you for inviting our brother to consider God’s wisdom and to invite God’s help.”

What a joy to catch ourselves using sweet words to the glory of God. What a blessing to enhance that joy by remembering to say, “Lord, thank you for the continual guidance of Your word (**Psalms 19:7-11**). Thank you for the example of Your Son. Lord, help me watch my words and to use every one of them to Your glory (**Psalms 19:14; Proverbs 31:26**).”

Bill Bagents