



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

October 16, 2011

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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THE PROOF OF OUR LOVE

The activity we engage in after eating the Lord's Supper is giving. You may call it the "contribution" the "offering" or the "collection."

Although it is not a part of the communion we pass the plates at that time simply because it's a convenient time to do so. It is a matter of expedience.

A congregation I visited in Wisconsin several years ago observed the Lord's Supper at the same time we do here, prior to the sermon. But they took up the offering at the close of the worship. "When" in the worship service the offering is collected is a matter of congregational preference.

Perhaps the "giving" part of the service would be more meaningful and there would be less neglect in participating in it if we recognized that this activity is worship.

Have we forgotten that dropping God's money in the offering plate is an expression of worship? Remember, it's His money; we're simply stewards of it. It is just as much an expression of adoration to God as singing, "Our God, He Is Alive," or as praying, or as eating the bread and drinking the fruit of the vine.

When the wise men from the east worshipped the baby Jesus, their devotion was manifested in the form of "gifts" (**Matthew 2:11**). It is generally conceded that "fellowship" in **Acts 2:42** (surrounded by other items of worship) embraces the act of "giving." Giving is an expression of worship.

In our giving, God gives us an opportunity to prove our love for Him and others. Paul laid down some principles for the saints (and us) to follow in their giving (**II Corinthians 8-9**). He urged them to be ready, willing, regular, generous, cheerful, and sacrificial in their giving. He also told them to "give proof of your love" by giving (**II Corinthians 8:24**).

When a Christian neglects the responsibility to "give" of his means unto God, as prescribed in the New Testament, he has refused to worship his Maker, at least in that respect. Hasn't he also failed to give proof of his love? Do you prove your love each Lord's Day?

James Cudd

QUESTION: IS THE FAMILY IMPORTANT?

Answer: It must be. Satan, since the beginning of time, has been trying to destroy it.

God made man and woman and placed them, as a family, in the Garden of Eden. The serpent, the deceiver, came along to destroy the first family. He enticed Adam and Eve to disobey God. They did. God held the first couple responsible but He soon vowed, in the first Messianic Promise (**Genesis 3:15**) to send a Savior to defeat Satan and preserve the family.

Centuries later, Satan again, through Pharaoh, tried to destroy the family. Building his empire from the blood, sweat and tears of the Hebrew slaves, the Egyptian king decided to thin out the ever-populating Hebrew race. He decreed that all Hebrew male babies be killed (**Exodus 1**). But God protected a baby named Moses who would grow up and lead the Israelites out of Egypt. The Exodus preserved families from which the future Messiah would come.

Centuries later, Satan again, through Herod, tried to destroy the family. King Herod had heard about a “king” who was born in the city of Bethlehem. Afraid that this new king would threaten his throne, Herod ordered the killing of all boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity (**Matthew 2**). However, an angel instructed Joseph to flee with Mary and his child to Egypt, and Jesus was spared.

Centuries later, time continues and Satan is still trying to destroy the family. Not so much through a decree of power but from the decline of the home. The Enemy enters the heart and home and wreaks havoc on families through adultery and sexual immorality, pornography, and alcohol and substance abuse. Families are also fracturing and breaking because of workaholic parents, disobedient children, the undermining of authority, financial irresponsibility, arrogant and unkind attitudes, lack of natural affection and such like. Broken homes filled with broken hearts. And it hurts – really bad.

Take a good look – no, rather, a “God-look” at your family. What shape is your family in? Is Jesus the center and seat of your home? Is He “*your life*” (**Colossians 3:4**)? Is your life “*hidden with Christ in God*” (**Colossians 3:3**)? Are your actions and attitudes governed by Jesus? What are you doing to strengthen your family? Will generations to come know Jesus through you, through your family?

Why bother? Because your family is important to Satan.

Coy Hathcock