



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

October 23, 2011

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
865-354-0855

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:

rockwdcc@earthlink.net

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

LIKE PETER, WE STUMBLE

“But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned” (Galatians 2:11)

Peter is the apostle with whom most of us would like to identify. He made many mistakes and so do we, so he makes us feel less guilty about our mess ups. Peter also had so many mountaintop experiences. He walked on water. He witnessed the transfiguration. He was commissioned to preach the first gospel sermon in Jerusalem. He was one of the three inner circle disciples of Jesus. We so want to have the triumphs of discipleship like Peter.

We believe, yet we stumble. We love the Lord, yet sometimes we act like we love the world much more. We want to live in righteousness, but sin characterizes us too often. Our heart yearns for the Lord, but sometimes persons looking only at our lives would never know. We rejoice and celebrate that our Lord's forgiveness does not know limitations for a penitent heart.

Even the “super strong” can fall. With all Peter had seen and experienced, he still struggled. Paul was the apostle who primarily worked with the Gentiles. But Peter often proclaimed the gospel among Gentile peoples as well; in fact he was the first to preach to Gentiles when he taught Cornelius (**Acts 10**). While in Antioch, Peter worked among the Gentiles. Some came from Jerusalem, insisting that Jewish Christians have no association with Gentiles (even Christians) who did not also keep the Law of Moses. Peter bent to the pressure they exerted. In **Galatians 2**, Paul tells us how he called all to repent of this hypocrisy.

We must always remember, we are never too strong to fall. We have never learned so much that we cannot still be wrong. Peer pressure can still push us out of faithfulness. Temptation can lead us through the wrong door. Isn't it wonderful that the Lord forgives and forgives again.

Gerald Elliott

A Life Without Regret

Sometimes we have decisions to make that are very difficult. However, it is not always a situation of deciding between two things where one is good and one is bad. Often the struggle comes when trying to decide between something where there is no right or wrong, just personal opinion and preference. For example: Some time ago, I heard about a person I knew from my past that was in the hospital and was not doing very well. Doctors weren't sure what was wrong with him and therefore they didn't know if he would recover. I was very busy at the time and was not sure whether I really wanted to take the time to go see him. I was not real close to this person but I used to know him and I still stay in contact with his son. I had not seen this man in long time and our relationship had ended on bad terms. I had tried to work things out with him in the past but he had not been willing. I just wasn't sure whether I should go see him or not.

One thing that helped me make the decision was asking myself what I would regret the most. I couldn't think of anything that would make me regret going to see him, but I knew that if he died and I had not gone to see him that I would regret it. So, I went to visit this man and we had a very good visit; he told me that he was glad that I come to see him. He died about two weeks later - I was very glad that I had gone to see him ... I had no regrets.

In life, almost everyone looks back at certain events and decisions and remember them with regret. Sometimes these unpleasant past experiences are only mildly disturbing, but at other times they so frustrate a life that they lead to mental and emotional breakdowns or even physical illness. It is not possible to live without any regret. We are all human and we make mistakes, but we can at least try to live without regret.

Although not every decision is a critical one in our lives, there are decisions we must make that are extremely important. These types of decisions should be made with prayer and supplication so we will have no regrets. We are blessed with Biblical examples of how we should and shouldn't live. Two such examples are the Apostle Paul and the other is the Rich Man. Their lives ended quite differently although they both started similarly. Saul, later called Paul, was a man of great stature and prominence, with ties to the religious and political realms. The Rich Man was obviously rich and had great pride and prestige. The poor sat near his gates to get crumbs from his table. Decisions they made throughout their lives changed their eternities ... only one lived to have no regret.

The apostle Paul made a great change in his life. The power, prestige and prominence no longer mattered. He changed to live a life with no regret. He said, **“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”** (2 Tim 4:7-8) Remembering this man was the same sinner who had persecuted and killed Christians before knowing Christ should give us great security in knowing our former regrets, sins and mistakes can be taken away through obedience and service to God.

On the other hand we see that the rich man in **Luke 16:19- 30** lived a life full of regret. He did not have compassion on Lazarus the lame beggar. In verses 22-25 we read, **“The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.’”** He had regret. He realized too late the horrible manner in which he had lived. He lived his life for his own pleasure, which will only lead to regret.

Let's all try to live our life without regret. Whether the regret is because of sin that we have done or regret from not doing something we know we should do, but do not do them. We have this one life on earth and then eternity. The decisions we make today can and will affect where we spend that eternity. There are only two options ... Heaven with God and His Son or Hell with Satan and his angels. The choice is really ours. We must obey Him and live for Him just as Paul did. **Kirby**