



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

September 16, 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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WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

“Daddy, where are you going?” the little boy asked as he rode down the highway with his father.

“To the grocery store of course” replied the man bewildered by the boy’s question since they had just talked about it ten minutes ago.

“No,” the boy exclaimed, “when you stayed home from worship Sunday the preacher asked us all where we were going after we died. I just want to know where you are going?”

It should be a sobering thought. One day each person that is alive will continue to live somewhere forever. Yes, there is a beginning and end to this life but the soul of man never dies (**Matthew 10:28; John 6:58**). Therefore, the most important question that one can ask himself is the same as the inquisitive young boy’s question, “Where are you going?”

ARE YOU GOING TO TORMENT?

After death, one does not immediately proceed to his final dwelling place, yet he does go on to a place of punishment or bliss. Disobedience to the commands of God means that death brings torment. In other words, when one does not respond to the mercy and grace that God provides by believing in Him (**John 3:36**), repenting of sin (**Acts 17:30**), confessing His name (**Acts 8:37**), and being baptized (**Acts 2:38**) he will be punished.

How does one know that is true? Jesus made it clear that rejecting Him (disobeying) means a harsh judgment (**John 12:48; II Thessalonians 1:8**). This is clearly seen from the example of the rich man who did not hear Moses and the prophets enough to obey them and was cast into Torment for his disobedience (**Luke 16:23**).

ARE YOU GOING TO PARADISE?

The opposite of Torment is Paradise. It is as close to Heaven as one can be before the judgment day. Unfortunately, if death brings one into Torment, he cannot pass from the pain to the joy of Paradise (**Luke 16:26**). Only in Paradise can one be present with the Lord and have peace and comfort (**II Corinthians 5:8; Luke 16:25**). Only in Torment can one be present with the Devil and His angels and have grievous sorrow (**Matthew 25:41; Luke 16:25**). So, where are you going? Down the track to Torment or up the pathway to Paradise?

Derrick Coble

STRIVE TO THRIVE

It is becoming very difficult to live a Christian life in the American culture. More and more of our friends, relatives and co-workers have been overcome by the influence toward selfishness and pride. The entertainment industry continually shoves ungodly activities and philosophies down our throats so that it is increasingly difficult to stay on a moral track – even with what they consider to be “family-friendly” shows. Our nation seems to be on a fast track toward paganism.

But before we get too discouraged about this, remember the words of Solomon: *“What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun”* (**Ecclesiastes 1:9**). Many cultures and societies have gone through periods of growth and decline. Even our own country has been through times of strength and godliness followed by times of decadence and decay. These down times usually create a spirit of reform and renewal. Hopefully American Christians are ready to lead the way toward a more godly way of thinking and acting.

What we are experiencing here is the same thing the Israelites went through toward the close of Old Testament history. You can read about God’s pleading with them to throw off the evil and immoral influences of Satan and get back on track with Him. This is the major thrust of all of the Minor Prophets (**Hosea** through **Malachi**). Far from being glossary-type material, these messages from God are calls to reform apathetic attitudes and to renew the commitment and dedication to live for Him in a pagan world. Can anything be more pertinent to our modern times?

What we need is a revival of sorts – Christians committed to (1) growing in holiness and (2) spurring one another on toward love and good deeds (**Hebrews 10:24**). In other words, each of us needs to strive (struggle to fight forcefully, contend) to thrive (to grow vigorously, flourish). Our enemy will not let up for a moment. Therefore, we must take the fight to him; refusing to give up or to be defeated. It can be done. God has promised it. And He never failed on a promise.

Are you ready to take back this country for the Lord? It won’t happen until God’s people heed the call of the Minor Prophets today and are willing to take the fight to the enemy.

Doug Allen