



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

April 12, 2015

P.O. Box 416
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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

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 10:00 a.m.

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THE RIGHT ATTITUDE LEADS TO GRATITUDE

I went home for lunch the other day and had a sandwich and leftover potato soup – and let me tell you that soup tasted really good! Now, normally I do not mind leftovers, but it is rare for me to rave about them. I'm sure you're wondering what it was that made it taste five-star restaurant good. Had Julie done something different in the way she prepared it? Nope, it was just like she always makes it (which is very good, by the way). Was it because potato soup is my all-time favorite dish? Hardly. Then what was it that made it taste so fantastic? That soup tasted especially good that day because I was having a good day and that soup warmed my tummy and soul. And that attitude led to gratitude.

When the church first began, **Acts 2:42** says of the disciples that daily they broke bread from house to house and "*Ate their food with gladness.*" They were so thankful to be a part of God's family that something as common as a meal together brought great joy.

For too many Christians, life has become mundane. And sad to say, some try to "spice up" their life with actions that are sinful (drinking, drugs, selfish lifestyles, excess spending, marital affairs, etc.). But the real answer is to be truly grateful for what you have. With a thankful attitude, even the ordinary becomes extraordinary (including potato soup!).

With what could you have a better attitude? Work? School? A relationship? Your parents/children? This congregation? Try a good and positive attitude concerning whatever it is and see what happens. My guess is that you will be grateful for what you have.

"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (I Thessalonians 5:18).

"Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:20).

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful" (Colossians 3:15).

Edd Sterchi

WHY SO MUCH BIBLE?

I don't think I will ever forget when a young preacher visiting one of our Gospel Meetings asked the question, "Why do you all use so much Scripture in your preaching?" It struck me as odd that someone would ask such a question. He then added, "I have found it better to use only a few Bible texts and to illustrate them with many stories and anecdotes to which people can relate."

Is it a mistake to use book, chapter, and verse preaching? Should we get away from using Bible references? Why would some think that this was a good thing?

I respectfully submit that moving away from Scripture is not a good move. Many have come to think like this because they view worship assemblies as entertainment venues. They find searching the Scriptures to be boring and uninteresting, and having less entertainment value. So, they opt for funny stories, or heart tugging illustrations to stimulate the emotions of the hearer, rather than inspired texts aimed at the intellect.

The Bible is the only message we have from God (**II Timothy 3:16-17**). The ideas of men, and the denominational dogmas authored by men, have no power. The power is in what God has authored in the sacred Book (**Romans 1:16**). Since the Bible is God's inspired Word, does it make sense for the church of God to spend less time learning it?

Emotional stories and anecdotes which produce chuckles may be fun, but worship is not for fun! The feelings and emotions of men, without Bible instruction, will lead men astray. Human feelings do not save, but divinely-authorized teaching will save (**James 1:18-21**). Paul instructed the young evangelist, Timothy, to "*preach the Word*" (**II Timothy 4:2**) and to "*convince, rebuke, exhort*" by use of its teaching. I find no instruction anywhere in the Bible to set aside such sound teaching for entertaining stories. In fact, Paul warned Timothy about the "*itching ears which long for something else, and turn away from truth to fables*" (**II Timothy 4:3-4**). The church is to be "*the pillar and ground of the truth*," and the truth is only found in the Bible (**I Timothy 3:15; John 17:17**). Do we need less truth, or more?

No, what ails modern man is not too much Bible, it is too little! Many churches have abandoned the preaching of the Word for mere entertainment. A better question to ask it, "Why is there so little Bible in so many churches?"

Darwin Hunter

