



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

April 12, 2020

The Empty Tomb

The first attempt to escape the fact of the resurrection of Jesus was the attempt of the chief priests who tried to explain why the tomb was empty! The guards reported to the priests, and even these Jewish leaders did not question the report that the tomb was empty! They did not even go to see if the tomb was really empty; they knew it was! If they did go to the tomb to see, there is no record of such a trip.

Suppose they did go to see for themselves, would they not have found it either empty, or sealed with the body still in it? If they had found the tomb with the body of Jesus still in it, this would have been glorious news to them, and who can doubt that they would have published such news abroad? If they had gone and found the body still in the tomb they would have forced the disciples to see the same, and we would have never heard that Jesus was raised from the dead.

But, the Jewish preachers who had Christ killed did not go to see if the tomb was empty; they were strongly persuaded by the soldiers that it was. If they had any doubt about whether the tomb was open and empty, or sealed with the body still in it, why did they tell the soldiers to say that the disciples stole the body? Before telling this infamous lie, why did those Jewish rulers not go to the tomb and see for sure that the tomb was empty? If they had gone and had discovered that the tomb was still closed with the body still in it, they could have saved some money, for they paid the soldiers to say the disciples stole the body. They paid the soldiers to say that while they were asleep the disciples came and stole the body. Desperate men make such foolish blunders and ridiculous statements. Imagine those soldiers on the witness stand telling about that which happened while they were asleep. How could they have known what happened while they were asleep?

The empty tomb must be dealt with by those who deny the resurrection of Christ. "The rending tomb proclaims his conquering arm."

Basil Overton

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

Elders:

Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Todd Houston

Secretary:

Susan Chandler

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

Family in the Faith

Throughout Paul's missionary journeys recorded in the book of Acts, he interacts with a number of young men who variously traveled with him, ran errands for him, and continued the work in a congregation begun by him. However, while the text mentions a few of these younger preachers, the relationship Paul had with Timothy serves as a poignant model that deserves careful attention and emulation. After ten years of working together, Paul wrote his first inspired epistle to Timothy, and even the opening salutation reveals the spiritual depth of their relationship: "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope, To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Tim. 1:1-2).

The foundation for the close relationship shared between Paul and Timothy was their mutual commitment to Jesus Christ. Paul's work as an apostle had brought them together. Doing God's will had made their relationship possible. It took Paul with Barnabas to Lystra, and that same commitment to doing God's will caused Timothy to join them (Acts 16:1-3). Yet, despite their differences in age and authority, they both depended on God for salvation and on Jesus for hope. Indeed, these brought them together to form a bond as a spiritual father to a spiritual son.

Sometimes today we fail to appreciate the power of Christianity to create and cement lasting relationships. But the more we invest in working with one another in the kingdom, the more our relationship with our heavenly Father defines our relationship with one another so that grace, mercy, and peace from God become tangible and visible in our daily lives. This is the type of relationship we should all long for and cherish within the church, but we must also be willing to invest our time, energy, and love in one another to make it happen.