



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

April 16, 2017

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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
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 7:30 pm

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WHAT ABOUT OUR REACH?

The Impala is an amazing creature that has a vertical leap of more than 10 feet and can jump an amazing 30 feet.

With such abilities, one would think zoos would have to take extraordinary measures to build enclosures to keep these nearly airborne creatures inside the zoo, but they don't. It seems the Impala will not execute its amazing jumps unless it can see where it's going to land. So, zoos only have to build a six-foot wall to keep the animals inside.

Unfortunately, there are some members of the Lord's church who have this same problem. They are capable of so many great things and could do amazing things, but they're limited to going only so far as they can see. Just as the Impala is unable to jump unless it can see the landing, some children of God restrict themselves to doing only those works for God they think they can with the money and talent they believe they possess.

The writer of the **Hebrew** letter wrote, "*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen,*" (**Hebrews 11:1**). Faith is the ability to do something or to see something not on the basis of sight, but on those things that are invisible, or unseen. The apostle Paul wrote, "*We walk by faith and not by sight,*" (**II Corinthians 5:7**).

It is a shame to see a church with so much potential limit itself because a lack of faith prevents it from using its potential to become great in the kingdom. If it is true that "*without faith it is impossible to please Him (God),*" (**Hebrews 11:6**), then can a church with a lack of faith be pleasing to God?

All should recall it was Jesus who said to the church at Ephesus who had left their first love, "*Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent and do the first works or else I will come unto thee quickly and will remove thy candlestick out of this place, except thou repent,*" (**Revelation 2:5**). What Jesus meant by the candlestick is that if Ephesus didn't repent and get faithfully busy, the church they had taken for granted would exist no longer.

Brethren, our reach should exceed our grasp because we are people of faith and believe that with God all things are possible (**Matthew 19:26**).

John Henson

FOR THE LOVE OF MONEY

Ananias and Sapphira lied to God about the price of the land they had sold. They died for their greed (**Acts 5:1-11**).

King Ahab pouted like a baby when Naboth refused to sell him his vineyard, so Jezebel killed Naboth and gave the land to her husband. But this evil pair paid for their covetousness when they later became dog food (**I Kings 21:1-23**).

Judas Iscariot was a thief who stole from the money bag and betrayed the Lord for thirty pieces of silver (**John 12:6; Matthew 26:15**). In the end he regretted what he had done and hanged himself (**Matthew 27:3-10**).

The rich man in **Luke 16:19-31** lost his soul because he was too cheap to help a poor man near his property.

Few things are as deceptive as money. Jesus warned that the “*deceitfulness of riches*” would cause some Christians to fall (**Matthew 13:22**). He said, “*If thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness*” (**Matthew 6:23**). In the context, He is discussing our attitude toward riches. If our “eye” (the way we look at money) is evil, then our “whole body” (our entire life) will be full of the darkness of sin. This is basically what Paul said in his well-known passage on the love of money:

“But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows” (**I Timothy 6:9-10**).

We live in a world infected with greed. Make money, spend money, and dream of having more – these ideas are drilled into our minds from youth. In this life money talks, and many listen. Solomon said that money is the answer to everything in worldly affairs (**Ecclesiastes 10:19**). Money is power, and power is money. But Solomon, who was rich beyond our imagination, warned that wealth will only leave you feeling empty and depressed (**Ecclesiastes 2:1-21; 5:10-15**).

If men had written the Bible, it would read like this section I call, “The Greedy Man’s Prayer:”

*Our money which art in banks,
Hollow be thy fame.
Thy power corrupts.
Thy will be done in recession,
As it is in prosperity.
Buy us this day more than we need.
And increase our debt,
As we fail to pay our lenders.
And lead us not into charity,
But deliver us from helping others.
For thine is the misery, and the vanity,
And the flames of hell forever.
Amen*

Kerry Duke