



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

April 1, 2018

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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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PERSONS OF CONVICTION

A traveling preacher in pioneer days asked a backwoods woman if she had any religious convictions. She said, "Naw, nor my ole man neither. He was tried for hog stealin' once but he warn't convicted."

Some people understand the word conviction about as much as this woman did. Yet conviction is the very heart of what motivates us to live the Christian life. Conviction is being convinced and really believing. It is the assurance and confidence of true Bible faith. What is faith? The essence of faith is conviction. It is being genuinely persuaded. The American Standard Version gives a good translation of **Hebrews 11:11**: "Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen."

Conviction drives a person to be baptized. When the eunuch asked about being baptized, Philip said, "If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest" (**Acts 8:37**). If a person really believes in heaven and hell, how can he keep from obeying the gospel?

Conviction moves a Christian to stand up and defend the gospel. If a man really believes that God means what He says, he will not stay quiet when people abuse God's Word.

Conviction motivates a person to evangelize. If he really believes that his friends and relatives are bound for the place "Which burneth with fire and brimstone" (**Revelation 21:8**), he will do all he can to save them. Paul said, "As it is Written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak" (**II Corinthians 4:13**).

Conviction keeps a Christian faithful to the doctrine of Christ. It keeps him from being "tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine" (**Ephesians 4:14**).

Conviction moves a person to give up sin. The conviction that he will stand before God will motivate him to live right more than all the wisdom human psychology can offer. Conviction keeps a man from sin. When Joseph was approached by Potiphar's Wife, his conviction in God kept him pure: "How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (**Genesis 39:9**).

Conviction is behind every area of genuine service to God. It moves us to attend all the services, give as we should, get involved in the work of the church, and order our lives after God's will. Do we wonder why people in the church don't act like they should? The answer is simple: there is a lack of conviction. The stronger the conviction, the greater the service.

God help us to "increase our faith" (**Luke 17:5**).

Kerry Duke

A CHOICE OR A CHILD?

(This article was written prior to the Super Bowl, 2010.)

When it comes to athletic competition, many people do not like Tim Tebow. He is multitalented and played on a football team that won two national college championships in a four-year span. Those kinds of things are understandable in athletics. However, Tim Tebow is also disliked for his religious beliefs and values. Through the years, he has been ridiculed and mocked for his unabashed public displays of Bible verses and his stand on personal sexual purity. What has been so interesting, however, is that people could not dismiss him, because, in the first place, he has lived (as far as I can tell) in harmony with his beliefs. It is an impressive thing when someone lives a life that is consistent with their profession of faith. In the second place, Tim is such a gifted and extraordinary athlete, that even those who don't like him must allow him his time in the spotlight. In a day and age, when athletes show up in the court of law almost as much as often as they do on the court or field of play, it is difficult to hide one who lives morally and ethically.

All this brings me to a fact that many Americans did not know about Tim Tebow. A few weeks before he was to be born, Tim's mother contracted an amoebic infection and was extremely ill. She was advised by a doctor to abort the baby. She did not follow the doctor's advice and gave birth to Tim.

That story is now being told more widely through a television ad produced by Focus on the Family (and costing about \$3.5 million) and that ad is scheduled to be aired during the Super Bowl, February 7, 2010. I say "scheduled" because CBS (the network set to televise the Super Bowl) is being harassed by various pro-abortion groups because of its plans to air the commercial. Abortion proponents give themselves away, when a woman such as Tim's mother makes the choice not to abort, and they ridicule her for telling her story in a public medium. We will have to wait and see how this plays out.

Whether the commercial plays or not is beside the point. The fact remains that in the discussion of abortion, the subject of every abortion is a baby, not a mere lump of fetal tissue. When an abortion is performed, human death occurs. It is not a coincidence that many, if not all, women who have had abortions later deal with grief and/or guilt over the death of the child.

The Law of Moses prohibited the sacrifice of children to gods (**Deuteronomy 18:10**). This act was called a despicable practice (**II Kings 16:3**). We may not have carved idols which are worshipped today, but abortion, as practiced in America and around the world, is equal to the sacrifice of children to the gods of convenience and pleasure.

Lance Cordle