



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

April 24, 2016

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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

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LIVING

Most days, “living” is a challenge. We have many responsibilities and challenges that compete with our relationship with God. We are raising a generation that has no real religious concern or eternal focus. As a society, our current generation continues to drift from the Creator! The world around us seems in survival mode everyday.

Christians can live a fruitful, meaningful life! We can live a full, Christian life provided we are in a right relationship with God. We can do more than survive. We can live decisively, live abundantly, and live eternally as long as we live obediently.

We can live decisively is we make the decision to put God first! **Matthew 6:24** says, “*No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.*” True success is based on and a result of putting God first – this is the only kind of foundation that can weather the storms of life without doubt.

We can live abundantly once we understand why Jesus came to earth. **John 10:10-11** says, “*The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.*” Jesus came to supply all of our needs (**Isaiah 40:11**). Christ died so we may have life and teach others about His sacrifice.

We can live eternally once we focus on the home that awaits us! **John 14:2** says, “*In my Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*” When we want to quit, we should remember why we started! Working and toiling can be difficult sometimes but we must not lose focus on why we changed our life and chose to become a Christian! Quitting is not an option for Christians.

Christians can live and not just survive but we must be obedient! Being obedient is hearing God’s Word (**Romans 10:17**), believing God’s Word (**Hebrews 11:6**), repenting of sins (**Acts 17:30**), confessing Jesus as the Son of God (**Matthew 16:16**), being baptized for the remission of sins (**Mark 16:15-16**), and remaining faithful (**Revelation 2:10**). Don’t let living in this world separate you from God!

Allen Jones

GOALS WITH NO NETS

Back in the day, friends would invite me to meet them somewhere to play a pick-up game of basketball, and few things are more disappointing than showing up to play a game of basketball and seeing a goal with no net. While I might have verbalized my disappointment, it didn't prevent me from playing. Nevertheless, throughout the game, we would spend most of our time questioning whether or not a guy made a basket or shot an air ball. A net-less basketball goal can be deceiving and disorienting. Of course, few things bring me more enjoyment than shooting a basketball and hitting nothing but net. There's just something about a "swish" that brings a certain satisfaction, but a net-less basketball goal is utterly dissatisfying. It robs you of a reward.

I wonder what God sees on occasion that fills Him with the same disappointment and dissatisfaction that I feel when I see a basketball goal with no net. Consider the following and take the time to read the passages of Scripture that are attached to these "goals without nets."

A Double-Minded Christian (James 1:5-8; 4:4; Matthew 6:24; 22:37-39; Revelation 3:15-16). God is not pleased with Christians who have divided loyalties. Are you wholly devoted to Him? Does God see "two minds" when He sees you?

A Self-Absorbed Christian (James 3:14-16; Philippians 2:3-8; Galatians 6:2; Matthew 20:26-28). God is not pleased with Christians who are self-centered and seemingly incapable of looking past themselves and serving others. Are you as concerned about the interests and spiritual welfare of others as you are your own?

A Lily-Livered Christian (I Timothy 6:12; II Timothy 3:2; Acts 20:23-24; II Corinthians 11:22-31; Hebrews 11:32-38). God is not pleased with Christians who cannot remain committed to His cause despite whatever comes their way. If you had to endure what Paul endured for the sake of Christ, would you remain steadfast or abandon the faith? Are you a committed soldier or a fair-weather civilian?

A Skin-Deep Christian (I Samuel 16:7; Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 5:8; 15:10-20; 23:25-28). God is not pleased with a Christian whose appearance masks a rotten heart. Are you superficial or genuinely authentic? Have you allowed God's Word to transform you from the inside out?

If one or more of the above characterizes you, then you are a goal without a net in God's eyes. I don't want God viewing me like I view a basketball goal with no net (**cf. Colossians 1:10**). How about you?

Jacob Evans