



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

April 2, 2017

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Deacons:

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Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

Minister:

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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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WORRYING & PRECIOUS TIME

Time is a precious blessing not to be wasted. With each tick of the clock, the brief span of time we have in this world is passing. This is why Paul exhorts us to use our time wisely: *“Redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:16)*. We should *“number our days”* making the most of each moment, living life to the fullest **(Psalm 90:12)**.

Perhaps, nothing hinders a proper use of time more than the futile exercise of worry. To worry is to “afflict with mental distress or agitation: make anxious” (Webster’s). Worry goes far beyond reasonable concern. To worry is to be anxious and fretful.

Everyone, at some point, will have to deal with the temptation to worry. Many cares and concerns burden our minds. We may worry about our children, finances, health, marriage, and a thousand other things. But worrying wastes time and accomplishes nothing!

In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave some powerful principles regarding worry. He asked, *“Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?” (Matthew 6:27)*. The “cubit” of Scripture was roughly 22 inches, from the elbow to the end of the middle finger. It is apparent that one cannot increase his or her height by worrying about it. God, by the process of biology, determines the “cubits” of each person’s height. This is out of our control. In this same way, the vast majority of our worries are beyond our control. Worrying will never improve one’s finances, health, or marriage. Worry will never help your children or grandchildren make wise choices. In fact, worry will never do one thing positive for you. But it will waste your time!

Jesus teaches us to *“take no thought”* for our lives or for tomorrow **(Matthew 6:25, 34)**. Since God knows our needs, He will provide. He takes care of the birds and the lilies, surely, He can and will take care of all who seek Him **(Matthew 6:26, 28, 30)**. Rather than spending our time worrying, we should spend our time seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness **(Matthew 6:33)**.

If worrying has become a problem in your life, break the cycle today. Realize that time is quickly passing. Begin looking to God. Seek Him through a study of His Word, the Bible. Put Him first in your life. Trust His promises, obey His will, and He will take care of you! He promised: *“I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Hebrews 13:5)*.

Mark Lindley

DO NON-CHRISTIANS AND CHRISTIANS STAND ON EQUAL FOOTING WITH GOD?

The Bible seems pretty clear about this question. We can read for ourselves the answer. The real question is: Do we accept the answer? The world doesn't see the difference at times. Sadly, there are some within the church who can't tell the difference either.

Let me start with a scripture. **Galatians 6:10** reads, "*As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*" Can we not see a subtle difference? We are to prefer one another. Why? Because our Savior sees a difference!

In **Matthew 12:47-50**, we read, "*Then one said to Him, 'Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You.'* But He answered and said to the one who told Him, '*Who is My mother and who are My brothers?*' And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, '*Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.*" Jesus is plain, isn't He? How about this one? "*Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven*" (**Matthew 7:21**).

Back to the question that makes our title, DO NON-CHRISTIANS AND CHRISTIANS STAND ON EQUAL FOOTING WITH GOD? Yes and no. Yes, if you are asking about the love of God. He loves all people (**John 3:16**). No, if you are speaking of salvation and being an eternal heir. The bottom line is this: If you can know you are saved (and you can know **{I John 5:13}**), then you can also know what saves or doesn't save others. If not, how do you know who to evangelize? The very act of sharing the gospel with someone is to admit you believe they need to hear it. When we can't tell the difference between the world and Christians, we must be closer to the world than we would care to admit!

Am I putting myself in the position of God when I know that someone needs the gospel? How about the need to repent? To be baptized? No, because God has already told us about these things so that we may discern between those who are Christians and those who need to become Christians. If a person refuses to comply with God's commands, are we to accept them as blood-washed brothers and sisters in Christ? Are we to see them as something different than God sees them? Brethren, I hope we study and understand this subject as so much depends on it.

Chris Moore