



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

April 7, 2019

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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
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 7:00 pm

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WHAT DO WE NEED FROM GOD?

Most of us could manage a long Christmas list. When I was a boy, I was into the Sears catalog a full two months before Christmas, The cost of my desires were in the thousands. I never did get all I wanted but I always got more than I needed. My parent's monetary constraints did not dampen my wishes.

Our wish list with a God who has no such constraints would be extensive. If, however, we could only receive those things which were justifiable needs, what would they be? Well, we need more money but we're still living without it. Better health would be nice but we can't keep it forever. Freedom from disease? Absolutely, but then eventually something else takes its place. No, the single greatest thing that we truly must have from God is salvation, redemption, forgiveness and the reward of Heaven.

Although it is referred to in many words it is singular in its function. Whether or not we prosper here with wealth, and health is vain when compared to salvation **(Matthew 16:25-26)**. After all, the salvation spoken of in the Bible, carries with it the necessary implication that you are in a saved state and that you are saved from something. A person rewarded with heaven is saved from hell. This is the thing we need. This is what we must have and it can only come from Jesus **(John 14:6)**. He, therefore, is the Savior and He stands not only able to provide this but is willing and desirous to do so.

Isn't it ironic that failure to receive the one true thing we need is the result of our refusal to accept it? Think about the flow of humanity that enters and leaves this world every day. Where do you stand even now?

Tim Turpin

FAITH: HOW IMPORTANT?

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
(Romans 10:17).

Christians, in some ways, are like anyone else. We all have a tendency to become lax about matters that should be basic and indispensable. It is like eating well. Anyone can learn how proper nutrition works and can even begin to do what it requires. But there is always the human characteristic to revert back to old behavior, even when it is not good for us.

Daily Bible reading is like this.

Within the heart of every Christian we know that the life-stream of our faith is the Word of God. If we did not know that, we would not even be a Christian. Somewhere in our history we had to have read or heard the Word or we would not have come to believe in Jesus and His Gospel. Like so many other healthy behaviors however, over time, we become careless.

Do we remember how important faith is? Can we recall that it is *“the victory that has overcome the world”* **(I John 5:4)**? Do we still know that it is the very foundation of all Christian virtues **(see II Peter 1:5-8)**? Do we still live by the rules, *“without faith it is impossible to please God”* **(Hebrews 11:6)** and *“the righteous man shall live by faith”* **(Romans 1:17)**?

From the opening of the Bible to its closing, faith is at the core of everything we are and do as Christians. All would have to agree.

However, do we not have a tendency to forget how faith is constructed within us? It does not happen solely by prayer. We cannot conquer the world just by spending time on our knees. Faith is not supernaturally poured out upon us nor does it come by simple force of will. We have to “learn” faith. It comes only by a continuous flow of the Word into one’s mind. No other way.

Those reading this article might think that a preacher like me will always be strong in faith. Not so! To build faith I have to read and listen to the Word as a purposeful effort toward self-growth and not just to prepare a sermon. A preacher has to build faith just like any other Christian. He too has to spend time in the Bible when His own faith wavers.

Will you begin a Bible reading schedule today? In our bulletin is a daily Bible reading schedule, start today, even though it is April, get in the habit of reading your Bible.

Will you commit to spending at least 30 minutes a day to reading and meditating upon the only way that faith can be built?

Floyd Kaiser (revised)