



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

August 3, 2014

P.O. Box 416
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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

Monday

Ladies Class 10 am

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WHAT ARE WE LEAVING BEHIND?

We are all familiar with news stories that highlight the “less than genius” decisions made by certain law breakers. Sometimes there are valuable lessons to be learned from these blunders.

One particular criminal had been in jail for a short period of time when he was released. However, only a couple of hours after he had posted bail, he was arrested again. This time he was charged with two counts of burglary. What happened? Why was he arrested again so quickly after being set free?

It was all about what he left behind.

At the first home he burglarized, the perpetrator left behind his police charge sheet.

At the second home he burglarized, the perpetrator left behind a DVD of his prior police interrogation.

There was no mistaking who it was that had been in these two residences.

Most likely, this was one of the easiest, “open and shut” cases this particular police department ever handled. The evidence was overwhelming! It was obvious!

Such stories should cause us to stop and think: If we were tempted to laugh or even snicker at the plight of this particular man, we would do well to remember that our own actions are even more obvious to God!

“And no creature is hidden from His sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account” (Hebrews 4:13).

Everywhere we go, every conversation we have, we leave something behind. We influence others positively or negatively. We may bring them closer to or push them further away from Jesus Christ (**cf. Matthew 5:16; II Corinthians 2:14-16**).

It may be anger, frustration, confusion, etc. that we leave in our wake. Or it could be joy, comfort, encouragement, etc. that we leave with others.

What are we leaving behind?

Bart Warren

LIGHT

History records for us an interesting footnote. It was during the dark winter of 1864. At Petersburg, Virginia, the Confederate army of Robert E. Lee faced the Union divisions of General Ulysses S. Grant.

The war was now three and a half years old and the glorious charge had long since given way to the muck and mud of trench warfare. Late one evening one of Lee's generals, Major General George Pickett, received word that his wife had given birth to a beautiful baby boy. Up and down the line the Southerners began building huge bonfires in celebration of the event. These fires did not go unnoticed in the Northern camps and soon a nervous Grant sent out a reconnaissance patrol to see what was going on.

The scouts returned with the message that Pickett had had a son and these were celebratory fires. It so happened that Grant and Pickett had been contemporaries at West Point and knew one another well, so to honor the occasion Grant, too, ordered that bonfires should be built.

What a peculiar sight it was. For miles on both sides of the lines fires burned. No shots fired. No yelling back and forth. No war fought. Only light, celebrating the birth of a child. But it didn't last forever. Soon the fires burned down and once again the darkness took over. The darkness of the night and the darkness of war.

Light is comforting. Light is warming. Light is inviting. Light brings people together in the darkest of circumstances. I suppose that is why Jesus said, *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life"* (**John 8:12**).

In a world where we perceive so much darkness, we can find comfort in the promises of Jesus. No matter how dark it seems around us, I am blessed to walk in the path lit by my Savior Jesus Christ.

Ryan Driskill

