



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

August 12, 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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BEHIND THE SCENES

When you're watching a movie at home or at the theater, when do you typically stop watching? Do you press "stop" when the camera pans out to a wide angle and the closing music begins playing? Do you exit when the lights come up? Or do you do the unthinkable and actually watch the credits?

Have you ever thought about the number of people that it takes to produce a movie? From boom microphone operators and location scouts to those mysterious workers known only as "key grips," there are an incredible number of individuals besides the director and actors that must do their jobs so that a movie can make it through production and onto the big screen.

Serving in the Lord's church is similar. It takes a number of people doing work (many times behind the scenes) to keep the ministry of the Lord in production. In **I Corinthians 12**, Paul teaches that the Lord's church is one body made up of many parts. Not all perform the same function, but all are necessary for the proper performance of the body. Some serve in front of the camera, while others serve behind the camera, but no one is expendable (**I Corinthians 12:22-26**). No one should be despised. All are worthy of honor, especially those who work behind the scenes (**I Corinthians 12:22-26**).

Those of us who are members of the Lord's church must faithfully utilize the gift(s) that we have been given by God for His glory (**I Corinthians 12:11, 18; cf. I Peter 4:10-11**). If we don't, God's vision for His church will not make it through production and onto the world's stage to influence those who need Jesus more than anything.

Jacob Evans

A NEW PERSPECTIVE FOR AN OLD PROBLEM

One morning this summer, I arose early to go to the farm and spray weeds. It was about an hour and a half before sunrise. After putting on my work clothes and shoes, I grabbed my glasses and headed out the door. I took off driving and immediately I was confronted by near blindness. I had to get within about 30 feet of a road sign to read it – and you all know how big those things are. My first thought was, “Wow, somehow my eyesight deteriorated overnight. Is this what it is like to go blind?” When I stopped at Loves to get something to drink, I reached up to my glasses to clean them. I didn’t have lenses in my glasses.

I could see, but not really. And that is exactly what Isaiah said as quoted by both Jesus and the apostles. *So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: “The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers, saying, ‘Go to this people and say; ‘Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; and seeing you will see, and not perceive: for the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed. Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them...’” (Acts 28:25-27).*

People see Jesus, but not really. Unless one looks at Jesus through the lenses of the Gospel, they end up seeing but not perceiving. People add their perceptions about the Son of God and maintain those perceptions in spite of over-whelming contradictory evidence from the Word of God.

For example, many see Jesus and perceive that all one has to do to go to Heaven is to give Jesus a verbal consent that He is the Son of God. However, when one looks through the lenses of the Word of God, it says, *“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).*

Seeing and perceiving are not the same. See through the lenses of the Gospel.

Ken Hamilton