



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

August 18, 2019

P.O. Box 416
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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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THREE RESULTS OF HEALTHY CHURCHES

The churches in all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria were hearing challenging, accurate preaching and were actively getting the truth into their communities (**Acts 9:26-30**). They walked in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 9:31**). This led to three wonderful results, the very things we should want in our congregation today.

They were **unified**. Luke records that these churches had “peace.” This word has a literal and figurative application. While there no doubt seems to be an allusion to the absence of external pressures that were in place previously (**Acts 8:9**), yet, they were preaching the word (**Acts 8:4**) even during these hard times, and the members were drawn together by faithful service in these circumstances. Consequently, they had peace internally even while there were debates and threats (**Acts 9:29**).

They were **edified**. In this great, working, and spiritually healthy atmosphere, the church was uplifted. They were building up each other and reaching out to one another. Though it is unstated, they were no doubt making decisions and acting in such a way as to think of others before themselves. They were acting in the best interest of one another. What an atmosphere this produces!

They were **multiplied**. Essentially, they were experiencing numerical growth because of the spiritual atmosphere. Because the church was obeying, serving, and honoring Jesus as Lord, they grew. So, it will ever be. Genuine, sustainable growth does not come through the bells and whistles of fads and fashions taken from society or the religious world. Live out the word in your life, and you will see growth.

The Holy Spirit gives us good and bad examples of churches and individuals throughout the Bible. The purpose of this is to help us know how we ought to conduct ourselves in the household of God (**I Timothy 3:15**). Thank God for the example found in **Acts 9:31**.

Bulletin Digest

WHEN THE DAY IS DONE

When your day is done, what have you done: have you cleaned the kitchen, mowed the yard, worked at your job, hugged someone, watched television, listened to the radio, eaten more than once, prayed, read your Bible and talked with someone about their salvation?

If you go back to the paragraph above and check off the ones you have done, could you check all of them on an average day? As you lay down to sleep tonight, ask yourself, "What have I done today?" Better still, in the morning when you arise, ask yourself, "What can I do today for salvation for myself and someone else?"

May I suggest you start with Bible reading and meditating and prayer? I timed myself on reading **Acts 26**. It took me five minutes. This may be about an average chapter. You may read faster or slower than me, but you can read a chapter each day. We can meditate on what we have read as we go through the day. When today is done, will you have read?

Prayer is you talking with God. He cares about all things which happen to you. Several times during a day, most Christians pray. Please pray for the church. We need God's blessings as we go about our work of teaching the gospel to lost people of the world. Please pray for the elders individually. The responsibility of caring for the souls of people is the greatest responsibility anyone can have. Please pray for preachers. They are responsible for speaking the word to the congregation and visitors when the church meets. Please pray for fellow Christians. They must set a good example to the people around them. They are to be teachers of the word also, according to their abilities. Please pray for the lost. They need salvation for their souls. Hell is real even for the people who are not taught the gospel.

When you look back over the day as you lie down to sleep, examine it to see if you have been nice to the people you met. A kind word or a smile is very encouraging to the people you meet. A harsh word or unkind word is not conducive to a close relationship. So start your day with a good attitude. When you are angry, remember "*So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God*" (**James 1:19-20**).

I encourage you to examine yourself in the light of how you have lived until today. At the end of today, go back in your mind and see if you have done as a Christian should have done.

You have heard how some people clean their house. Maybe they just ignore the dirt on the floor or on the kitchen table. It is still there. A friend may come into the house and see the dirt and know it is your responsibility. The same is true of sin. When you ignore sin, it is still there. God sees any sin you have in your life. He will be happy to forgive the sins, but you are responsible for obeying Him to have them forgiven.

You have heard of other people who sweep the dirt under the rug. The dirt is still in the house and needs to be removed. Some people try to hide their sin instead of being forgiven of it. God knows what your sin is and where you are hiding it. "*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*" (**I John 1:9**).

You know of people who blame their sin on others. "*But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For each one shall bear his own load*" (**Galatians 6:4-5**).

When your day/life is done, it must be sin-free in God's sight!

Vernon Curry