



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

August 23, 2020

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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

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Susan Chandler

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

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Words Matter

We have so many ways in which we use our words. We have the spoken word. We have the written word. We have the texted word. We have the emailed word. We have the posted word. Thankfully, we have the Inspired Word!

James 1:19-20 is clear when it comes to how we are to respond to anyone in any given situation. *“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.”* Communication can be difficult at times. Let us remember, our transmissions during conversations can be uplifting or undermining!

Anytime we don't choose our words wisely, we may allow ourselves to be drawn into conversations that do not produce positive outcomes. Angry words taste bitter for a long time. The song we sing by the same title gently reminds us to be careful in the first line: *“Angry words, oh, let them never from the tongue unbridled slip; may the heart's best impulse ever check them ere they soil the lip.”*

While “communication” looks vastly different in terms of how we communicate (by phone, digitally), we must never let someone else choose how we respond. Jamy Bechler says “The minute you get personal or mean-spirited with your argument, you've lost. Too many arguments are based on emotion and not logic. In fact, there are too many arguments and not enough conversations.”

We are tempted to maybe say things we shouldn't without first considering our thoughts. Let us follow the words of Jesus as He was tempted. *“But He answered and said, ‘It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God’” (Matthew 4:4).*

Allen Jones

The Power of Hope

Have you been struggling with some feelings of hopelessness lately? Whenever we have a hard time seeing the end in sight or we face uncertainty or are exposed to fears and anxieties, it can undermine our determination to have hope. Yet, over a hundred times in Scripture, God points us to the hope His children have through Him and His promises. We have such a resource because of the rock-solid expectation He provides. Whatever may happen to us this week, this month, or this year, the Christian can look forward with confidence at the fulfillment of what God through Christ promises us. And Scripture says it in so many ways:

- Hope does not disappoint (**Romans 5:5**)
- Hope helps us persevere with eagerness (**Romans 8:24-25**)
- Hope causes rejoicing (**Romans 12:12**)
- Hope fills you with all joy and peace in believing (**Romans 15:13**)
- Hope is an abiding quality, alongside such elite qualities as faith and love (**1 Cor. 13:13**)
- Hope enables deliverance (**2 Corinthians 1:10**)
- There is one, unconquerable hope (**Ephesians 1:18; 4:4**)
- Hope is tied to earnest expectation and boldness (**2 Corinthians 3:12; Philippians 1:20**)
- Hope is connected to steadfastness (**Colossians 1:23; 1 Thessalonians 1:3**)
- Hope offsets grief (**1 Thessalonians 4:13**)
- Hope tunes our hearts to look for Jesus' appearing (**1 Timothy 4:10; Titus 2:13**)
- Hope encourages the pursuit of our eternal life (**Titus 1:2; 3:7**)
- Hope anchors the soul (**Hebrews 6:19**)
- Hope helps us draw near to God (**Hebrews 7:19**)
- Hope is tied to endurance (**Hebrews 10:23**)
- Hope is instrumental to faith (**Hebrews 11:1**)
- Hope prepares for eternity (**Colossians 1:5; 1 Peter 1:3,13**)
- Hope helps give a defense (**1 Peter 3:15**)
- Hope purifies (**1 John 3:3**)

Remember this:

"How blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, Whose hope is in the Lord his God" (**Psalm 146:5**).

"The hope of the righteous is gladness..." (**Proverbs 10:28**).

"The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I have hope in Him" (**Lamentations 3:24**).

"Christ Jesus...is our hope" (**1 Timothy 1:1**).

You will face nothing today or ever that is too destructive, terrifying, or powerful to offset this hope! That doesn't mean be rash, reckless, or rebellious. It does mean be faith-filled, optimistic, and courageous! Are your faith and hope in God (**1 Peter 1:21**)?

Neal Pollard