



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

August 25, 2019

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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Larry Hill
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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DO YOU EVER FORGET WHAT YOU ARE DOING?

Have you ever deliberately walked into a room, gone back to your house, or driven to a store only to forget why you went in there in the first place? Many of us have done this, unintentionally, of course! We may feel dumb or scatter-brained when it happens. We may even get frustrated. Thankfully, most of us have learned to retrace our steps in our mind, and then, snap. There it is! We remember what we were doing.

Most often this has something to do with us being really busy, behind schedule, or emotionally preoccupied. This can become more than just a momentary frustration, a weakening mind, or a bad habit. What if the thing we forgot we were doing was putting our faith in Jesus as the Son of God?

This may sound a bit ridiculous, but we are not above it or immune to it. We all have so many responsibilities in this world that we can easily get distracted from seeking Jesus and putting our faith in Him, even if it is only for a little while. How can we know if we have forgotten what we were doing spiritually? Here may be a few symptoms:

Are you frustrated with a person, a situation, or a circumstance?

Do you feel as if you have no worthwhile purpose?

Does worship seem like a burden to you, instead of an encouragement?

Has your love for the church or the Lord grown weak or seem to have died?

These attitudes may be a warning sign to us that we have forgotten what we were doing. Jesus warned the church in Ephesus of this very thing (**Revelation 2:3-4**). We are also warned in Jesus' words to the Jewish leaders in **John 8:24** "I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins." Let's retrace our steps in our minds, and remember how we came to Jesus to start with. It was a sure and certain belief that He is who He claims to be, the Son of God!

By Jay Don Poindexter

THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVING IN THE KINGDOM

Occasionally, I see bulletins with an order of service for the Sunday worship period. They will include the phrase, “Those privileged to serve” and follow with a list of the men who will be leading the services. I like that phrase, “Those privileged to serve.” The word “privilege” refers to “a right...granted as a peculiar benefit, advantage, or favor.” When I see that phrase, “Those privileged to serve,” it tells me that those leading in the services should consider it an honor to serve in the kingdom of God, regardless of the job to be done.

It seems to me that a lot of people have the reverse idea. They think they are doing God a favor by being at Bible study, worship services or by participating in the work of the church. For them, service is something done to benefit God, not any great honor for them. In that way, it reminds me of the two men in **Luke 18:9-14**. The Pharisee extolled his personal virtues and self-righteousness as if God were privileged to have him on His side. We think of that man as being arrogant and out of step with God. Are we any better when we “volunteer” to do service for God thinking that we are benefitting Him to some degree?

Our attitude ought to be, “What a privilege it is to serve in the kingdom!” When we believe and think that way, we will do all we can to serve God. But, we will do it from the perspective of humility and not arrogance. We will serve because there is work to be done and feel that we ought to do something in the service of our King.

Paul’s words say it best: “*And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry...*” (**I Timothy 1:12**).

You are “privileged to serve.” God has a place for you in His kingdom and He wants you to be busily engaged in the work that needs to be done. The question is not, “What are you willing to do?” The question is “What will you do?” The answer should be, “**Whatever God wants me to do. It is a privilege to serve in the kingdom.**”

By Gary Knuckles