



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

December 13, 2020

P.O. Box 416
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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Secretary:

Susan Chandler

Service Times:

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

Email:

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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

Be Careful What You Say

Whoever said, “sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me” must have been deaf. Most of us know the lasting pain that comes from a cutting criticism or a personal attack. **James 3:5** compares the hurt of the tongue to a fire that can destroy a forest.

Certainly not all verbal hurt is intentional. Recently someone pointed out how I had hurt them with a comment I made. Honestly, I did not remember the conversation and certainly had no intention of causing them pain. Yet, the fact was that I had hurt them. Criticism often comes from a person in deep personal pain themselves. Whatever our intentions, we all need to do a better job of guarding our speech and stopping the hurt. There is no place for gossip in the body of Christ.

Paul wrote the Ephesians these powerfully challenging words, “*Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.*” The goal of the Christian is not to be silent, but to be a blessing. We seek to find ways to build up rather than tear down. Even the truth must be spoken in love.

My favorite song as a child had these words in its third verse, “Oh be careful little mouth what you say. There’s a Father up above looking down in tender love. Oh be careful little mouth what you say.” Let’s be more cautious with our words every day, and if we need to apologize, as I did to the person who came to me, then let’s apologize.

Don Loftis

Religious Myths

There are many so-called “myths” out in the religious world. Many people believe things that have been created by man, but no evidence can be found of this “myth” within scripture. Millions of people are going to be disappointed when it comes to the day of judgment and they have placed so much faith in the words of man. Let’s discuss a couple of these “myths.”

Many people believe that “just living a good life” is all that is required to get to heaven. “If I don’t steal anything major, stay faithful to my spouse, don’t kill anyone, or just generally try to be a good person, I will go to heaven,” is often the belief of many. But if “just being a good person” saves you, why then does the Bible teach differently. Take the case of Cornelius in Acts 10. Cornelius was described as upright, devout, prayerful, fearing God, giving generously to those in need, respected by all Jews. He would definitely be considered a “good” man. But even Cornelius was told that he had things he needed to do in order to be in obedience to God’s Word. “And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ” (Acts 10:48). Being a Christian involves more than just being a “good” person.

Many other people believe just having a faith in God will save you and will get you the reward of Heaven. If faith only saves us, why then does the Bible teach us more has to be done? In James 2 we are given multiple accounts that we must have more than just faith to be saved. Faith is definitely important, but there is more to salvation than that alone. “So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead” (James 2:17). If we are not in obedience to God’s Word (works), then our faith is worthless and dead. Our faith must drive us to obedience to God’s Word. Without that obedience we will not be found acceptable in God’s eyes.

Don’t believe the words of man. Take the evidence from within the Bible and live your life accordance to those words. **Nick Pace**