



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

December 16, 2018

P.O. Box 416
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Rockwood, TN 37854
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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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HOPE

My great-grandson is counting the days until Christmas. Almost every morning as we leave for school he will tell me how many days are left until the holiday arrives. He has “hope” of getting presents, of being out of school for two weeks, and for all the good times that are waiting. Sometimes he says he “can’t wait!”

Paul wrote about a far greater hope that Christians have in Christ Jesus. He noted how Moses’ face shined so brightly after being in the presence of God that he had to wear a veil so people could look at him (**Exodus 34:29-33**). The Israelites had the “hope” of a coming Messiah-but did not understand what that meant. Christians know the hope of eternal life through the gospel of that Messiah, Jesus the Christ. Paul said this hope is laid up for us in Heaven (**Colossians 1:5**).

Jesus said He was leaving this earth to go and prepare a place for those who follow Him (**John 14:2, 3**). Think about the joy of someday being in that “mansion” prepared for all those who obey God’s will (**Matthew 7:21**). In fact, if we “know God” and have “obeyed Jesus’ gospel” (**II Thessalonians 1:6-9**), that joy should be in our hearts even now, just like my great-grandson’s hopes for Christmas.

It isn’t popular to say today, but Paul said there is only one hope (**Ephesians 4:4**)! That means there is no hope in anything or anyone else. Peter said there is salvation in no other name under heaven except Jesus (**Acts 4:12**). Do you have that hope in Christ, or are you letting the world entice you with some kind of false hope?

John K. Willis

‘YOU COULD HAVE DONE THAT’

Carol Bartz was the former CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of Yahoo. In an interview while at a Forum at Georgia State University she was asked what the best advice was she had been given. She said it came from her grandmother, who raised her, on a farm in Minnesota. “I was in the machine shed with my brother. We heard a rattlesnake above us and ran for Grandma. She grabbed a shovel, knocked the snake out of the rafters and chopped its head off. Then she said, ‘You could have done that.’ And you know what? She was right.”

That got me to thinking about what I could have done. Several years ago while preaching for the Bristol Rd. church in Flint, MI we had a school of preaching. One of our instructors taught Greek and I signed up to take the course. I went three days and quit. But I could have done that. Here are some ideas.

One. Read through the Bible (or New Testament) in a year. Recently while in Gatlinburg they had in their bulletin names of those who had already completed reading through the Bible. While in Gainesville, Florida I noticed on the board that 19 had completed reading through the Bible. You could do that.

Two. Read a set of commentaries. A brother at the Jacksonville, AL congregation told me that within a year and a half after he obeyed the gospel he had read the complete set of New Testament Commentaries by Burton Coffman. Do you think he knew a little bit more about the Bible after that? You could do that.

Three. A good lady with whom I am acquainted bakes small pound cakes and gives them to the sick. You could do that.

Four. I knew a lady confined to a wheelchair. She regularly sent cards of encouragement to the sick and shut in, elders and members who needed lifting up. You could do that.

Two men were sitting on a stump at the edge of the woods. One was a huge muscular guy the other much smaller. The small guy said to the large fellow, “If I were as big as you I would go into the woods and rip a big bear apart.” The big guy replied, “There are a lot of small bears in the woods.” You could do that.

By Larry Acuff, revised