



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

February 15, 2015

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Kirby Hinds

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

Monday

Ladies class 10:00 a.m.

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THE PROPHET JOEL SPEAKS

The Old Testament prophets often went unappreciated in their time. Little has changed today. Many Christians do not know the order of the OT prophets, and usually need some extra time looking up a Scripture reference from one of those books during a class or sermon. But these were men of God, speaking timeless truths, whose words bridge the span across the ages.

It is difficult to date the book of Joel because of the lack of precise historical or chronological information. What he says, however, is still disturbing. Whether it was before or after the exile in Babylon, Joel says there are economic difficulties (**1:4**), drunkards (**1:5**), people who have abandoned God (**1:13**), and an enemy for whom the nation is unprepared (**2:3-9**). This sounds like America, doesn't it? America is deep in debt and getting deeper. Substance abuse is everywhere. Atheism is on the rise. Islam grows as a threat to the West.

Joel's prophecy speaks to America today nearly as easily as it did to its original audience. But rather than focusing on the bad things and developing a case of "Chicken Little Syndrome," we should pay attention to Joel's message from God, telling the people to "*blow a trumpet in Zion*" (**2:1**) and "*return to Me with all your heart...and rend your hearts and not your garments*" (**2:12-13**).

There will always be concerns in the world, whether it is violence, evil, or war. But we also remember that in the very last words of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus said, "*And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*" The problems we see around us should motivate us to make a difference. The most comforting thing about it is that we aren't alone in our efforts.

Dewayne Bryant

THE GAME OF LIFE

Have you ever played Milton Bradley's, "The Game of LIFE?" Probably you have at some point. This game has been around a long time – since 1860! The object of this game is to cause its players to make several important "life decisions" and teach them several important "life lessons," while having fun at the same time. Some of those decisions and lessons were:

- ❖ Whether to go straight to work, or go to college first.
- ❖ Paydays are typically better for those who go to college.
- ❖ Whether to buy or not to buy health/life insurance.
- ❖ Having children can bring benefits as well as liabilities.
- ❖ Life has many unexpected setbacks, as well as serendipitous blessings.
- ❖ And ultimately, the decisions you make in life will determine whether you will wind up in a "Millionaire's Mansion" or the "Poor House."

But one lesson this game didn't teach us; in fact, the most important lesson of all is this...

- ❖ When the game is over, everything goes back in the box!

No matter how good you were at this game; no matter how much money you were able to accumulate; no matter who you were able to beat; at the end of the game, you had to put everything you had accumulated back in the box.

Friends, now that's the greatest lesson you'll ever learn from "The Game of LIFE." No matter what you're able to accomplish in life; no matter how much money you are able to earn in your lifetime; no matter how many people you competed against and over which you were victorious; when your life is over, it all goes "back in the box." You take none of it with you. Then you'll stand before your Maker. So, how well are you doing in the game of life?

Steve Higginbotham