



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

February 16, 2014

P.O. Box 416
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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Bobby Bear
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 am

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HOW DO YOU FEEL?

When we are concerned about the health and welfare of someone, we often ask, "How do you feel?" Usually the response is somewhat positive: "Fine," "Better," or "OK." At times, it may be negative: "Not good," "Weak," or "Awful." Have you ever thought about asking this question to those who are sick with sin? The answers would be just as varied. Some who are in sin don't realize the danger. Therefore, they may say, "I'm fine."

This was the situation with the church at Laodicea. Our Lord admonished them to repent of their wicked deeds, "*Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked*" (**Revelation 3:17**). Only those who overcame this sinful condition would be able to sit with Jesus in His throne (**Revelation 3:21**). Spiritually, they were not OK even though they felt like they were.

On the other hand, there are those who realize their soul is lost and feel the dangers of sin. This was the situation with the prodigal son (**Luke 15**). Jesus told of a man who wasted his money and his life in the grips of sin. While he was still in rebellion, he finally hit rock bottom and felt awful about the way he had lived and treated his father. So, he made this determination, "*I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee*" (**Luke 15:18**).

So, how do you feel? Are there sins you are overlooking in your life simply because you feel like they are not that "big?" Or, do you realize your sins are hurting you and the Father in Heaven and want to change? "*They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.*" (**Matthew 9:12**).

Derrick Coble

HIDDEN TREASURE

While it is not an everyday occurrence by any means, most all of us have heard about people who have accidentally stumbled across priceless artifacts. There have been paintings and baseball cards and books sold at garage sales for pennies that were actually worth many thousands of dollars. The sellers did not know what they had.

Another situation like this just occurred in Norway. A long-lost Vincent Van Gogh painting (known as “Sunset at Montmajour”) was recently discovered after spending years in a man’s home because it was thought to be a fake. Museum experts in Amsterdam had rejected the painting’s authenticity, thus the painting languished in a Norwegian man’s attic.

Consider just a couple of reasons why this treasure stayed hidden for so long: 1. The owner was given bad advice. Certain “experts” were not convinced the painting was real and they, in turn, convinced the owner it was not authentic. 2. The owner apparently gave up after the initial consultation. They did not seek further evaluations and opinions.

In many ways, this situation has parallels to people either accepting or rejecting pure New Testament Christianity. It is sometimes the case that men will be given bad advice. They will be told about counterfeit religion, and they will believe it. They have believed the mistaken (albeit sincere) advice of some supposed “experts” (**cf. I Kings 13**). A further problem is that they remain satisfied with the first answer – they do not seek a second opinion. If what you hear from the pulpit does not fit the Bible, find a different pulpit!

The truth can be found and understood (**John 8:32; Ephesians 3:4; etc!**) We do not have to settle for counterfeit Christianity. Let us be like the Bereans and examine the Scriptures daily so that we might know the truth (**Acts 17:11**). So many don’t recognize the immeasurable riches that are so close and within their grasp. Too often, the treasure just languishes as though it were in a dark attic.

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it” (**Matthew 13:44-46**).

Bart Warren