



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

February 17, 2019

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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Todd Houston

Secretary:

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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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ARE WE TOO BUSY TO WATCH FOR JESUS?

A man walked into a doctor's office early in the morning. He knew that there would be a long wait, so he came prepared with a book to read. After a long time of reading, a nurse came up and tapped him on the shoulder, saying, "Sir, its 5 o'clock, we are closing now." "What!?" the man said, "I've been here since 8:30 this morning and my name has yet to be called!" The nurse asked, "What is your name?" He told her his name and she checked the log and responded, "Sir, we called your name five times and you never answered." The man was so busy reading that he didn't pay attention to listen for his name.

Perhaps, we have become so busy in our family life, our work life, our recreation life, and even in our church life, that we fail to anticipate the one true event that makes everything else worthwhile – Jesus' second coming. Christ is coming again. Do you talk about it with your friends? Do you hope for it? Do you pray about it? I suggest to you that most of us don't think enough about it. We busy our lives with life, to the point that we pay little if any attention to the One who can make a greater life at His coming. To heed the words of Jesus would be beneficial to us all: "Be on the alert."

"But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in Heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone... What I say to you I say to all, Be on the alert!"
(Mark 13:32, 37).

Jason Hart

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF A CHRISTIAN

The book of Malachi is the final message of the Old Testament to Israel, a disobedient nation. Four hundred years would pass before “the Day of the Lord” would be ushered in by John the Baptist.

God had shown much favor and goodness to the Jews, however, they were not grateful. Sin abounded...the name “priest” had become a word of contempt among the people. They offered diseased and blemished animals in sacrifice. God threatened to reject them and choose other nations who would show more reverence to His name and worship. Jewish men marrying Gentile women was common, as was divorce, with disastrous effects on the children.

Chapter 3 speaks of tithing. Withholding tithes is referred to as “robbing God.” The Jews considered that money and effort offered to God were wasted. Malachi warns of the coming day of the Lord.

God’s awful judgments on the wicked and the great blessedness of the righteous is strong wording in chapter 4. Malachi, who is the last of the prophets, closes the Old Testament by urging strict observance to the law until the Messiah is introduced and begins a new and everlasting dispensation.

Great lessons can be learned from this Old Testament prophet which is very applicable to God’s children today. Christians have three marks, or distinguishing characteristics. *“Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, And the Lord listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the Lord and who mediate on His name.”* **Malachi 3:16.**

“Those who feared the Lord.” They hold His name, they speak His name with reverential awe. They tremble at His word.

“They spoke to one another.” This implies fellowship, cooperation, mutual helpfulness. *“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works”* **Hebrews 10:24.**

“Who mediates on His name.” This implies meditation, devout worship. Their thoughts are fixed on Him. *“...His delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he mediates day and night.”* **Psalms 1:2.** *“Wait on the Lord, Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!”* **Psalms 27:14.** *“Be still and know that I am God...”* **Psalms 46:10.**

Note the blessings that fell upon them. God does not forget His people! *“For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister”* **Hebrews 6:10.**

Let us be sure that we carry the “distinguished characteristics” of God’s people, and be proud of it! After all, we are His “elect.”

Charles D. Beebe