



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

February 21, 2016

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.

Email:

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DO WE LOVE THE LORD MORE...?

“So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord: thou knowest that I love Thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs” (John 21:15).

DO WE LOVE THE LORD MORE THAN OUR KINSMEN? If we do, we will not let them keep us from obeying the Gospel. We will be willing to leave the religion they have accepted if it is proven wrong. We will not let them keep us from attending the services of the Lord’s church. Remember, Jesus said, *“He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of Me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than men is not worthy of Me” (Matthew 10:37).*

DO WE LOVE THE LORD MORE THAN MONEY? If we do, we will not make the heaping of riches the chief object of our living. We will give liberally of our means to the Lord (**II Corinthians 8:1-5**). Remember, the Lord said, *“For the love of money is the root of all evil” (I Timothy 6:10).*

DO WE LOVE THE LORD MORE THAN PLEASURE? If we do, we will not engage in that which is forbidden, that which will hurt our influence for Christ. Remember, the Lord, in speaking of perilous times, said that men shall be *“lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God” (II Timothy 3:4).*

DO WE LOVE THE LORD MORE THAN THE PRAISE OF MEN? If we do, we will be willing to stand for the Lord and the right, though we must stand alone (**II Timothy 4:16-17**). The chief rulers *“did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12: 42-43).*

The Lord should be the supreme object of our affection (**Matthew 22:37**). May we learn to sing, and mean it, “More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee.”

Wendell Winkler

DAVID & SAUL'S ARMOR

The Israelites stood frightened at the challenge of the Philistines (**I Samuel 17:11**). Goliath, their champion, threw down the gauntlet, calling for a single man to meet him in battle to decide which nation would serve the other (**I Samuel 17:8-10**). Saul, the king for whom Israel had rejected God, who was to go before Israel to fight their battles (**I Samuel 8:7, 20**), did not respond to Goliath's summons. However, David, a shepherd boy who bore Saul's armor (**I Samuel 16:19-23**), was ready to go out and meet the challenge. Saul tried to discourage him from going, claiming, "*thou are but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth*" (**I Samuel 17:33**). Yet, David confidently affirmed that God would deliver Goliath into his hand, just as He had delivered a lion and a bear into his hand.

When Saul observed how David was set on going, he offered him his armor and sword, but after David had put on all the armor, he refused to use them, claiming he had not proved them. Instead, he went to slay Goliath with his sling and five smooth stones from the brook.

Perhaps there is more to this account than meets the eye. The passing of clothing and armor from one to another in ancient times was often viewed as a way of transferring a position of authority. When Elijah was to anoint Elisha as his successor, he did so by initially calling him through throwing his mantle on him (**I Kings 19:16, 19**). When their time together came to an end, Elisha took up Elijah's mantle when the latter ascended to heaven in a whirlwind; thus everyone knew that the power and position of Elijah now rested on Elisha (**II Kings 2:11-15**).

It is unlikely that Saul was intentionally offering David the kingdom, but from that day forth, David, much more than Saul, was the protector of Israel against the Philistines. Not only did he defeat Goliath through his faith in the living God, he went on to have many military successes against Israel's enemies (**I Samuel 18**). In any case, David refused Saul's armor, but later in **I Samuel 18:4**, when Jonathan offered David his robe, armor, sword, bow and belt, David accepted it. This must have indicated the truth that David, rather than Jonathan, would be Saul's successor. We know from later chapters that Jonathan died in battle with his father, and David came to reign in Israel (**I Samuel 31:6; II Samuel 5:1-3**).

There are times when we are not ready for people to leave. When great servants of the Lord are unable to continue their work due to health problems or are no longer with us because they have gone on to their reward, we may feel like David; that there is no way we can fill their armor. It is important that we conduct ourselves as leaders and good examples, so that when our leaders leave, we can assume the mantle. Are you a leader in the church helping others to develop to fill your place? As a younger follower in the church, are you conducting yourself in such a way that you can be a leader when the time comes?

Mark Day