



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

February 23, 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 MUCH SALT ARE WE SELLING?

Years ago, salt tended to clump when the air was humid. To prevent clumping, salt companies began putting additives like magnesium carbonate into their salt. In 1911, the Morgan Salt Company began using the slogan, "When it rains it pours," to sell their customers on the fact that their salt wouldn't clump no matter how wet the weather. In 1914, they combined the slogan with a picture that immortalized the concept. The blue label featured a little girl holding an umbrella in one hand to protect her from the rain and an open package of salt tilted back and pouring out under her other arm. The slogan and the picture produced one of the most successful marketing campaigns in history.

I believe that this story illustrates a wonderful truth about Christianity. As Christians, we are the "salt of the earth" (**Matthew 5:13**). Because we have an additive called faith in our lives, we don't clump or complain when it rains. We just keep right on singing and serving like we always have. Think about Paul and Silas for a moment. At Philippi, they were severely beaten, cast into prison, and placed in stocks for preaching the gospel and for helping a little girl who was possessed with a spirit of divination (**Acts 16:16-24**). Although they were mistreated, what do we find them doing at midnight?

We find them praying and singing (**Acts 16:25**). Just think of the positive influence that Paul and Silas' reaction to the rains of life must have had upon the prisoners that heard them. Just think of how much salt they must have sold that night. I know that at least one man, the Philippian jailor, was convinced to give Christianity a try.

As the salt of the earth today, we can be sure that those around us are watching us. They are carefully observing how we handle the showers and stresses of life. If we will keep right on trusting and serving as always, they will likely want to know more about the hope that is within us (**I Peter 3:15**). How much salt will we sell with our lives?

Wade Webster

DOWN AND OUT LATELY? GOD KNOWS AND HIS WORD CAN SAVE US

“Finally be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.” **(Ephesians 6:10-11, NIV)**. Sometimes when the circumstances of life or our own sin gets us down, we stay down longer than we should. One of the ways the devil, the father of lies, keeps us down is by doing what he always does – lying **(John 8:44)**! The devil has always been lying, twisting or quoting only part of what God said in order to try and deceive humans into believing in themselves, rather than in God **(Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-5; Luke 4:10-11)**. In the case of us being disappointed in life (circumstances) or in our own mistakes (sin) we are tempted to only hear part of what the Bible tells us. Perhaps we need to read larger sections of Scripture, so that we get a better understanding of all that God has to say in regard to life, our sin, and His word.

For instance many of us have read the **119 Psalm** and understood that it exalts God’s word (percepts, laws, statutes, commands, etc.). It is an acrostic poem having 22 stanzas one for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet with each of the 8 verses in a stanza beginning with the corresponding letter of the Hebrew alphabet. However, we may not have considered the context of the psalmist who writes it. The psalmist exalts God’s word **(Vs. 89, 105)** and seeks **(vs. 5, 11)** obedience to the God who gave it. He is also a man who knows about life, because he has been down **(vs. 25)**, weary and sorrowful **(vs. 28)**, and strayed like a lost sheep **(vs. 176)**, and he knows about affliction **(vs. 67, 71)** suffering **(107)** and opposition **(51, 85)**.

It is my earnest prayer that we will understand that no matter where we are in our journey with the Lord (sometimes we do get down and/or go astray), God understands! God is faithful to keep His promises **(Romans 4:18-21; I Corinthians 1:9; 10:13)**, and He knows more about our down times and sin than we give Him credit for. If you have been down or if your sin has discouraged and overwhelmed you, do not be afraid or think God cannot understand. God understands life, sin, and the power of His word, and He will, according to His own word, guide and restore you, if you let Him **(Psalm 199:86-88; II Timothy 2:13)**. Keep seeking Him **(vs. 2)**!

Jay Don Poindexter