



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

February 7, 2021

P.O. Box 416
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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Dale Barger

Secretary:

Service Times:

Sunday

~~Bible Study 10 am~~
Worship Service 10:45 am
~~Worship Service 6 pm~~

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

Email:

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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

Maturing in the Lord

I enjoy doing the occasional woodworking project. It keeps my hands busy and allows extra time for thinking on life. To help improve my abilities in woodworking I subscribed to a wood magazine. I was excited to get my first issue and began the process of becoming a master craftsman! As I perused through that first issue, I quickly realized that I had bitten off more than I could chew. There were tools and terms totally strange to me. I have since subscribed to a different magazine more on my level.

Sadly, there are many Christians today who suffer through the same problem in their walk with Christ. The initial desire is to know the Lord to the greatest extent, but find in their daily reading of His Word a world far beyond comprehension. Terms can be hard to understand and a culture far removed from our current lifestyle. The more we turn the pages, the more lost we become, until giving up altogether.

The Hebrews writer addresses this very problem in the early church. The writer chastises Christians for their lack of maturity in Christ. Though they ought to be teachers by now, they are needing others to teach the elementary principles of the oracles of God. They were needing the milk of the word, not solid food (**Heb. 5:12-14**). But the Christians were encouraged to leave behind the elementary teachings and press on to maturity (**6:1-2**).

What the writer is addressing is the problem of apathy in the church then, and today. Have we become comfortable where we are in our lives with Christ? Are we satisfied (status quo) in our relationship with the Lord? Have we ceased striving to know more about the Lord? Have we become comfortable with the same well known stories, instead of delving into the greater “*mysteries*” of the Word? The Hebrew writer continues his challenge by describing the immature [apathetic] Christian as ground that either brings forth useful vegetation or ground yielding thorns and thistles with its unfortunate end to be burned (**Heb. 6:4-8**).

Where are you in your walk with the Lord? Yes, there are passages which are difficult to understand, but if we will apply ourselves to knowing God, He will bless us with a greater understanding, leading us to a full life for Him and the promise of eternal life! I hope and pray that you are maturing in the Lord in all ways: church attendance, a greater knowledge of His Word, serving the Lord (as you serve others), and reaching out to the lost.

Paul Mowrer
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‘My’ Religion

A famous country singer told how she got religion. When she was a child, her mother said the Holy Spirit told her that her daughter had a special gift. When she grew up and started singing, she said the gift had to come from God because she didn’t get it from her mother or father. It was then that she felt she had a relationship with God. She said this was when she began to discover “*my spirituality.*”

“*My spirituality.*” A spirituality based on a gifted singing voice. How ridiculous! But her claim to religion is typical. People talk about my church, my beliefs, and my denomination. They talk about my values, my standards, and my priorities. They speak of my interpretation, my definition, and my opinion. This terminology is not in itself wrong. Paul spoke of “*my gospel*” (**Rom. 2:16**), but this was the exception, not the rule. People today talk about “*my religion*” and leave God and the Bible out of it. They are like the rich fool who said, “*I will pull down my barns and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods*” (**Luke 12:18**). He thought all of this was his—and it never was!

These people talk about “*their church*” like they talk about their car or their house. When this church doesn’t suit them, they change it or they get another one. Religion to them is all about what they want, not what God says. That is why they don’t even bother to give you Bible approval for what they believe and do. Why should they? “*My spirituality*” is based on feelings anyway. This is also why they are so accepting and tolerant of other beliefs. After all, “*my religion*” is not “*his religion,*” but “*I can’t say that what is right for me is right for him.*”

Such people are often the most vocal about their beliefs. They testify about the good things that have happened to them as proof that “*my spirituality*” is right. They don’t read verses like **Ecclesiastes 9:11** which says time and chance happen to us all. They don’t pay attention to **Matthew 5:45** where Jesus said that God makes His sun to rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. If “*my spirituality*” is right because good things come to me at some point in my life, then everybody’s spirituality is right because everybody receives good things at times.

A lot of people will wish on judgment they had listened to God’s Words instead of their desires. They can talk about how religious they are, but their talk is cheap if they don’t follow the Bible. Jesus said, “*Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is heaven. Many will say to me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity’*” (**Matt. 7:21-23**).

“*My spirituality*” is not the standard. Only God’s Word is. Until people humble themselves before it, they will not be saved.

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