



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

February 18, 2024

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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

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Service Times:

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

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The Nature of God

The Bible is a rich document that provides us details and ideas into who God is. Three New Testament descriptions say that He is something: Spirit (**John 4:24**), Light (**1 John 1:5**), and Love (**1 John 4:8**). Yet, the Bible from cover to cover shows us much more about who God is. We really want to know who God is because after all we are His Children and we are called to be like Him. He is the reason we can assemble together to Worship. He is the reason we can gather together to Pray. He is the reason we can live! In **Nehemiah 9**, eight Levites led Judah in a “*praise service*.” That is, these priests exhorted God’s people to praise God for His Nature. Read **Nehemiah 9** and notice how they are encouraging these people.

His Exalted Nature (Nehemiah 9:5-6): Notice God’s attributes, as mentioned here. He is the Exalted One. He is Lord. He is the Creator. He is the Sustainer. He is the only subject Worthy of Worship.

His Extending Nature (Nehemiah 9:7-8): His Extending Nature is illustrated by Abraham and the covenant made with him. For Abraham, He chose (7), brought out (7), named him (7), found his heart faithful (8), made a covenant with him (8), gave him Canaan (8), and preformed His words (8).

His Expressed Nature (Nehemiah 9:9-15): His activity is noted from Egypt to the Red Sea, from Mount Sinai to the desert. God provided all power and ability with the most remarkable and memorable acts of all history.

His Enduring Nature (Nehemiah 9:16-38): This means that God put up with and was longsuffering toward Israel for what they had done against Him! They disobeyed, ignored, and rebelled. Yet, notice that the priests noticed God’s persistent longsuffering from Moses’ generation all the way until captivity was over. God was good to them.

Remember that we have access to the longsuffering of God and we can always choose stand upon the side of God!

Jonathan Burns
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Fortify Your Faith

A father brought his demon-possessed son to Jesus (**Mk. 9:17**). He told Jesus he had taken his son to the disciples, but they could not cast the demon out (**Mk. 9:18**). Thus, the father asked Jesus, “*if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.*” (**Mk. 9:22**). What was the response Jesus gave the man? “*If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes*” (**Mk. 9:23**). **Mark 9:24** says, “*Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, ‘Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!’*”

We need help with our faith. We need deeper faith. The disciples later privately asked Jesus why they could not cast out the demon from the boy (**Mk. 9:28**). The twelve had been given the miraculous ability to do such in the limited commission (**Mt. 10:8**). Jesus highlighted the key on this occasion: “*This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting*” (**Mk. 9:29**). Prayer and fasting, when done with the right motives, are practices that increase our faith (**1 Cor. 7:5**). Thus, even the disciples needed more faith; their failure to cast out this demon was evidence of such. Matthew’s account records these words of Jesus in response to their question: “*Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting*” (**Mt. 17:20, 21**).

Today, we do not have the miraculous abilities that the apostles had in the first century. However, in any age what matters to God is not our talents, knowledge, personality, or popularity. God uses people who live by faith. **Hebrews 11** reiterates this truth time and again. “*By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain*” (V. 4). “*By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death...*” (v. 5). “*By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household...*” (**Heb. 11:7**). On and on the roll call of faith goes.

Faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen (**Hebrews 11:1**). Substance means foundation. Faith is the foundation of our hopes in spiritual things. Evidence is from a Greek word which means conviction. Faith is conviction of the unseen. God is unseen (**Jn. 1:18; 1 Jn. 4:12**). Our home in heaven is unseen (**Jn. 3:13; 2 Cor. 5:1-5**). None of us have ever seen Jesus with our physical eyes revealed in great glory from heaven (**1 Pet. 1:7, 8**). Yet, those of faith live with the conviction of these unseen realities (**2 Cor. 4:18; 5:7**). One comes to have faith in these things by hearing the word of God, as **Romans 10:17** says, “*So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*” God has told in His Word, the Bible, about Himself, His Son, and about heaven.

Do you need help with your faith? We all do. Hear God’s word and meditate upon it with prayer and fasting and the Lord will increase your faith (**Lk. 17:5**).

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