



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

January 17, 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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THE MOST READ GOSPEL

What would you say is the most read gospel? Is it Matthew, the first book that the reader comes to in the New Testament? Is it the action-packed gospel of Mark? Is it Luke, the gospel for all men? Is it John, the one penned by the disciple whom Jesus loved?

In all likelihood, the most read gospel is not one of these four. It is the fifth gospel – YOU.

Leroy Brownlow (*Give Us This Day*) wrote:

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John,
Are read by more than a few,
But the one that is most read and commented on
Is the gospel according to You.

You are writing a gospel, a chapter each day,
By things you do and words that you say.
Men read what you write, whether faithless or true,
Say, what is the gospel according to you?

To the saints at Corinth, Paul wrote, *“Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you? Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart.” (II Corinthians 3:1-3).* The Corinthians were an epistle known and read of all men. Of course, the same holds true with us. What are men reading in us? Will our lives cause them to glorify God (**Matthew 5:16; I Peter 2:12**) or to blaspheme Him (**Romans 2:24**) and His word (**Titus 2:5**)? **Wade Webster**

BRING CHRIST YOUR BROKEN LIFE

I'm sure you recognize the title above as the name of a song often sung in worship assemblies. What a hopeful thought it is to know that we can bring broken and damaged lives to Jesus and that He can repair and restore us by His grace!

Sin does great damage to our souls. No accountable person escapes its devastating power (**Romans 3:23**). It alienates us from God (**Isaiah 59:1-2**), brings shame upon us (**Revelation 3:18, 16:15**), harms our friends and family, and incurs the righteous condemnation of a holy God (**Romans 1:18; Colossians 1:20-23**).

But, that doesn't have to be the end of the story. Lives marred by sin and broken by transgression can be healed. But, the sinner must first admit his problem. He must quit covering up his wrongs and concealing his pain. As Jesus said, *"It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick"* (**Matthew 9:12**). His words rebuked the self-satisfaction and spiritual blindness of the Pharisees who thought that they did not need a Savior – they could save themselves by perfect law-keeping. They would not admit their wrongs. They were too proud to humble themselves before God. Jesus could not help them as long as they were foolishly relying on self-righteousness.

Another class of people could be helped (saved). They were folks who knew their own shortcomings. They recognized their own failings and gladly heard and followed their Savior. Like Peter, they could say honestly about themselves, *"I am a sinful man, O Lord"* (**Luke 5:8**). Like sinful David, these broken-hearted people weep over their own sins (**Psalms 51:17**). Like the humble publican, penitent sinners confess their sins and beg for mercy, instead of bragging about their supposed righteousness (**Luke 18:9-14**).

It was said of Jesus, *"This man receives sinners"* (**Luke 15:1-2**). Yes, and thank God it is so! But, may we all remember that there is only one kind of sinner whom Christ can help. It is the humble, contrite, broken-hearted, truly penitent, confessing sinner who falls down at His feet in poverty of spirits, and asks, *"What shall I do, Lord?"* (**Acts 22:10**), and gladly obeys the Gospel answer (**Acts 2:38; 22:16**). Bring Christ your broken life, now! He can heal the soul.

Darwin Hunter