



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

January 19, 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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I CAN'T EXPLAIN THE MECHANICS OF IT

“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercessions for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:26-28).

Verse 26 tells us that the Holy Spirit “helps” us when we are weak and that the Spirit intercedes for us when we don’t know what to pray for. I’ve been in that situation where I just ask God that His will be done because I don’t know what else to say. It is agonizing when tough times come and you feel like you are alone and without options. In verse 28, we are told by Paul that things “work out” for those who love God or are Christians (called out). How does that work? I don’t know, but if the Book says I can have it then I want it, whatever “it” is.

I believe in God’s providence and not in modern day miracles. Yet, I think God is more involved in our lives than we want to admit to. Think about this passage, (**Hebrews 1:14**) *“Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?”* The author had previously been speaking of angels and it appears that they “minister” for those who are Christians. I don’t know what they do for us but they are doing something. If I need it then I want it.

There are things going on “behind the scenes” that God is doing on our behalf. He doesn’t stop you and me from sinning if that is what we want to do but He is providing “help.” Don’t ask me to explain the mechanics of this help.

May we pray to God first over matters that trouble us. May we thank Him for every blessing we have and remember where they came from. Remember God is working on your behalf to help you get to Heaven.

Chris Moore

NEW PERSPECTIVES

A man sat with his 98-year-old mother, who lived on investment income. She had recently begun to worry that she might run out of money, so her son, an accountant, sat down with her to go over her investments. When he finished examining all her holdings, he said, “Mother, you have sufficient income to provide all you need for the next seventeen years.”

She said, “that’s fine, but what about after that?” Some reading this are much older than I am. Others are much younger. But for all of us, the passing years give us a new perspective on time. When we’re seven or eight, time seems to move slowly. We think we’ll never finish the school year. Summer vacation will never arrive. Christmas takes forever to come.

But once we’re “over the hill” and start sliding down the back side of life, the weeks, months and years seem to fly by. Suddenly we realize that we’re nearing retirement. Then we realize we’re nearing death. As the lady mentioned above asked, “What about after that?” **Hebrews 9:27** says *“It is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.”*

As I write this article, I am planning to conduct two funerals – one for a faithful 88-year-old Christian lady and one for an innocent seven-month-old baby. I have no concerns about the eternal destiny of either. But what about you? How long do you reasonably expect to live? If all continues to go well, I may have another 20-25 years, but I may not have another day. You may not either. So if you are not confident that should you die tonight you would hear God say, *“Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master”* (**Matthew 25:23**), you need to take some drastic action to be ready for death. It is coming, whether tonight or some other time. Don’t let it catch you unprepared to meet God.

Acts 4:12 says of Jesus, *“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*

Jim Mullican