



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

January 22, 2017

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
865-354-0855

Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Todd Houston

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

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

BEHOLD, THE LAMB OF GOD

Sin has a way of demanding our attention. Whether it is a sin someone has committed against us or our falling prey to our own evil desires (**James 1:14**), sin has a way of becoming our focus. All sin is against God and carries with it the spiritual death sentence demanded by God's holiness (**Romans 6:23b; 7:11-12**). This makes sin in our lives and in our world a truly important fact to be understood. We must let God's word point out sin so that we are conscious of it (**Romans 3:20**). However, sin, regardless if it is committed by us or against us, should not be the thing we behold or fix our eyes upon. When we behold something, we fix our eyes, also our mind's eye, upon it, so that it becomes our focus. The problem is that we tend to gravitate toward our focus. We cannot journey north focusing and beholding what is to our south.

Perhaps this is part of why God continually tells us to fix our eyes on Jesus, and consider Him (**Hebrews 12:2-3**). John, the disciple whom Jesus loved (**John 13:23; 19:26**), knew Jesus well and knew how important it was for the church to focus on Him and His work at the cross, as the Lamb of God.

"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'" (**John 1:29**).

"My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world" (**I John 2:1-2**).

This week, even if sin abounds, let us remember who is the object of our journey, and keep our eyes fixed upon Him, behold Him and His work.

Jay Don Poindexter

THE GOLDEN RULE

Matthew 5-7 in our Bibles record what has become known as the Sermon on the Mount. Within these teachings Jesus addressed many general areas that covered a broad spectrum of heart problems. Within these teachings we find a verse that would help us greatly in our relationship with our fellow man as well as God. In **Matthew 7:12**, Jesus said, *“Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them for this is the Law and the Prophets.”*

This verse has become known as the “Golden Rule.” The Golden Rule is not stated in our Bibles (except in headings), but it is a pretty good description of the verse. After all, if everyone treated others the way they wanted to be treated, wouldn't we have a better world? Unfortunately, most people want to be treated better than they treat others.

I think we should also take this verse and use it to say we should also treat others the way we want our families to be treated. How do you treat the young ladies behind the counter at the local fast food restaurant? When they are struggling, do you stand back and make rude comments? Are you rude and hateful? That girl is someone's daughter, sister, and maybe mother. How would you want your daughter to be treated? How do you treat the older lady that waits on you in the store checkout line? Do you treat them the way you would want your mother to be treated?

You see it is easy for us to fall into the snare of expecting more of people than we want to give. If you allow yourself, you may be treating others in a way that you would not want to be treated. You may be treating others in a way that you would not want your family to be treated.

Looking back at the verse in consideration it is interesting that Jesus said that it was the Law and the Prophets. He said this another time when asked what was the greatest commandment in the Law. He said that are to *“love God with all our heart, soul, and mind and to love our neighbor as ourselves” (Matthew 22:36-40)*. Based on loving God and our neighbor Jesus said *“on these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”* In these verses both God and man are covered.

At first glance it might seem that there is a piece missing when comparing **Matthew 7:12** to **Matthew 22**. Most look at **Matthew 7:12** and only apply it to man, but what if we took that verse and applied it to God? Do we treat God the way that we want Him to treat us? I doubt it. I would imagine it would be safe to say that almost everyone wants God to treat them better than they treat Him. Is that fair to God? Is it fair to desire His full love without giving the same in return?

I believe that if we take **Matthew 7:12** and apply it to both God and man it truly is the “Golden Rule.” We should treat God and men the way that we want them to treat us.

Doug Tooley