



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

January 23, 2022

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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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Behold, I Thought; Now I Know

Despite being a leper, Naaman the Syrian army commander retained his pride. Didn't his status merit a dramatic healing ceremony from Elijah? "*Behold, I thought, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy'*" (**2 Kings 5:11**). Instead, Elijah had sent a servant to instruct Naaman to dip seven times in the Jordan River. How undignified! But when he set aside his prideful anger and obeyed, the cleansed leper's "*Behold, I thought*" became "*Now I know*" (**v. 15**).

This wasn't the first time someone's think-so turned out to be wrong. When Abraham and Sarah journeyed to the Philistine city of Gerar, Abraham told King Abimelech that Sarah was his sister (just as he had done in Egypt many years earlier). Abimelech promptly took Sarah into his harem, but the Lord just as promptly ordered him to return her to her husband. The indignant king demanded an answer from Abraham: "*Why have you done this thing?*" Abraham's excuse was, "*I thought surely the fear of God is not in this place, and they will kill me on account of my wife*" (**Genesis 20:1- 11**). Yes, he thought – but was dreadfully wrong.

Looking back at the time he had been a Jesus-hating abuser of Christians, Paul said, "*Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth*" (**Acts 26:9**). Like Abraham and Naaman, Paul had to come to grips with how utterly wrong he had been.

What a difference between "*Behold, I thought*" and "*Now I know*"! The line of demarcation: Learning and obeying God's will.

Joe Slater

Justin church of Christ

Justin, TX

Don't Believe Everything You Think

I admit a curiosity for bumper stickers. On occasion, one succinctly states a great truth or at least provokes reasonable thought.

Once I stopped at a light, and the car in front of mine had the sticker, “*Don't believe everything you think!*” The more I thought about it, that statement struck me as appropriate.

Often people reason, “*If I think it, it must be right.*” The press and the politicians seem to believe that if one repeats something often enough, even if it is wrong, people will believe it. When people decide that this propaganda is what they believe, then it must be right.

While the mores of society are in transition, morality is not. Society thinks that we have a new morality, but thinking it does not make it so. In spiritual matters, the dangers and consequences are so much more serious because they affect the eternal.

Naaman made this mistake because things did not turn out as he thought they would. He became furious saying, “*Indeed, I said to myself ‘He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy’*” (**2 Kings 5:11**).

Because of his thinking, Naaman could have lost the opportunity for healing simple because what God, through Elisha, required was not what Naaman thought it should be. People reject God's plan of salvation because it differs from what they think. Different folks think that God ought to save them by certain means — faith only, sprinkling, good works. Others think God should save them in their sins, not from their sins.

Many become indignant when it is suggested that what they are practicing whether in worship, works, or manner of life does not have God's approval according to the Scriptures. The defense offered is that this is what attracts people, what pleases people, and what people think they should do.

A good reminder to all men is, “*My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,’ says the Lord, ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are lily ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts’*” (**Isaiah 55:8-9**).

Whether it is our judgments about our fellow man, about the world around us, or about our responsibility to God, remember that in every case truth should be the measuring standard. Please, do not believe everything you think!

Oran Rhodes
via Findlay church of Christ
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