



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

January 26, 2014

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

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

Email:

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WHEN YOU MAKE AN ERROR

In 1986, Bob Brenly was playing third base for the San Francisco Giants. In the fourth inning of a game against the Atlanta Braves, Brenly made an error on a routine ground ball. Four batters later he booted another grounder. And then while he was scrambling after the ball, he picked it up and made a wild throw past home plate trying to get the runner there.

Two errors on the same play! Just a few minutes later he bobbled another ball to become the first player in the twentieth century to make four errors in one inning!

Now, those of us who have done or said things that were embarrassing in public can easily imagine how Brenly must have felt during that long walk off the field in front of thousands of people at the end of the fourth inning.

But then, in the bottom of the fifth, Brenly hit a home run. Then, in the seventh inning, he hit a bases loaded single, driving in two runs and tying the game. Then, in the bottom of the ninth, Brenly came up to bat again, with two outs. He ran the count up to three balls and two strikes when he hit a massive home run into the left field seats to win the game for the Giants. Brenly's score card for the day came to three hits in five at-bats, two home runs, four errors, four runs allowed, four RBI's, including the game winning home run.

Life is a whole lot like the game Brenly played in 1986. When we sin, we should never give up or lose heart, but should repent, pick ourselves up and strive to do better. *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* (I John 1:9).

Tim Woodward

HIS GRACE IS SUFFICIENT

Have you ever been nagged by a problem that even prayer wouldn't fix? Then you can relate to the apostle Paul's battle with his pesky "thorn in the flesh." It wasn't a literal thorn, but as the figure implies, it was a persistent irritation of some kind. Paul called it "a messenger of Satan" – sent to frustrate, discourage, and weaken him. Certain that he would be stronger and more productive without it, he prayed for relief. But nothing happened - even after additional prayer. He entreated yet again, and God finally responded, though not as expected – *"My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness"* (**II Corinthians 12:7-9**).

At first glance the response may sound a bit insensitive, as if God were saying, "Haven't I already given you enough? And here you are, asking for more. Be satisfied with what you've got." But that's not the thought. The affliction, whatever it involved, was something Paul needed in his struggle against pride. Even if Satan had intended it for Paul's harm, it became God's **gift**. A higher purpose was realized, and as a result, Satan was the one who ended up frustrated and defeated, thanks in part to Paul's trust in God's provision.

We learn from Paul's experience that God's "grace" isn't limited to the lovely gifts He gives, whether spiritual or physical. Grace also describes what He chooses not to give. In the midst of your pain you may ask, "Why doesn't God step in and do something?" But God is not absent. He isn't temporarily powerless to help. His grace is **never** insufficient! He IS working in you and through you in ways you don't see, and for reasons you may not always understand. You must trust Him in what He chooses to do or not do with you. Remember what Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego told Nebuchadnezzar when he threatened them with a fiery death?

"If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire...but even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods..." (**Daniel 3:17-18**).

There's a difference between what God **can** do and what He **will** do. You can't always have what you want. But, if you truly believe that God will always do what is best, then you will come to know that His grace – His giving AND withholding – is sufficient for you in all things.

Mike Thompson