



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

January 31, 2021

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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Dale Barger

Secretary:

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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What Is Edification?

“Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification” (Romans 14:19).

Edification is not a word we use in everyday life. We don’t hear or read about it in the news. It’s not usually found on any TV drama or comedy. However, the Bible urges us to *“make every effort to do what leads to”* peace AND edification.

It is obvious that peace is linked to edification, but what is it? To edify someone is to encourage them. It is to give another support and confidence as they strive to do God’s will.

There are a lot of things and people who discourage others. Without a healthy dose of encouragement, it is easy to become depressed and lose hope. I remember working in a secular job in Fort Worth during one of Texas’ economic downturns. I spent hours and weeks developing a project only to have it cancelled just before it was deployed. Intellectually, I knew that it wasn’t anything to do with me. The downturn in economy made it difficult to deploy the program. That’s when a senior officer of the company (that I barely knew) stepped in and said, “You did good work on this program. I sure hope we’ll be able to use it, soon.” That word of encouragement uplifted me more than I can tell.

We all need encouragement. That’s one of many reasons why it’s important to meet together to worship the Lord. It is a time to encourage each other.

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:25).

Larry Fitzgerald

Is Our Savior Sleeping?

By Dale Pollard

Have you ever been afraid of your imagination? At times that fear can be so convincing that you truly believe that the worst-case scenario is somehow inevitable. Try and make that opening question relevant to your life. Think about a specific event or experience where you were afraid of something that never came to fruition. The grip of anxiety can be debilitating as you wait for your medical test results to come in. You agonize over the poor quality of life you might have if there is ever an unexpected economic collapse. Your hairline might rapidly recede as you stress over the outcome of the war our nation is still involved in, and do I even need to mention the new global pandemic? You're robbed of sleep as you imagine the potential horrible outcomes that may never happen. These things may never happen because the Lord could come. They may never happen because whatever you're afraid of— it's simply worse in your own mind. It may never happen because God has proven Himself to be one who calms the storm instead of letting you perish.

I believe we would all benefit from recalling those occasions in our past where fear proved unnecessary and we worked ourselves up for nothing! If the fear in your life has a big appetite and it's devouring all your time and peace, maybe it's time to feed something else. Sitting Bull once said, "Inside of me there are two dogs. One is mean and evil and the other is good. They fight each other all the time. When asked which one wins I answer, 'the one I feed the most.'" How vividly this illustrates a daily struggle for so many. Fear and faith will scrap with one another until we decide which one will win. Do you think our faith would emerge victorious every day if we could physically witness God's power, but in a miraculous way? If my own eyes could witness Jesus bring the dead back from the grave, cast out a demon, or walk on stormy waters, then I would never worry again. Or would I? Seeing Jesus perform miracles never made anyone perfect. His disciples were far from perfect and they stood feet from the Savior while He did things only God could do.

On one occasion, which was hinted at earlier, Jesus calms the storm after being abruptly awakened by His terrified followers (Mark 4). There are some details about this account that will help us feed our faith when fear threatens to win the day.

First, our cries to God, even in the desperate times, are heard. The disciples exclaim, "Don't you care that we're about to die?" Following this fearful plea, Jesus will demonstrate a fraction of His awesome power. After all, what is calming a stormy sea to the One who spoke every drop of water into existence?

Second, excessive fear of *anything* in this world is a foolish mistake. God is bigger and greater than our worries.

Third, God is not asleep. It may seem like He is when we don't feel optimistic about the future, but it's when we recognize that He's the only answer to our peace that He will calm our storm.