



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

January 8, 2017

P.O. Box 416
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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

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WHO IS YOUR BARNABAS, PAUL & TIMOTHY

Most young boys admire and look up to their father as they are growing up. I was no different. I wanted to be just like my father. Grow up to be strong, smart, funny, kind, loving, honest, hard working, a farmer, and many other things just like my father as I got older. As a little boy, a teenager, a young man, and even today, I look to my father as one to emulate.

I know that I was extremely blessed to have the loving, kind parents that mentored me. We all need mentors in our lives. Whether it be parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, cousins, other relatives, friends, neighbors, etc., we all need people in our lives that we can look up to. Jeff Jenkins recently said in a leadership training at South Green St., "Everyone needs at least one Barnabas, one Paul, and one Timothy in their life." That phrase has stuck with me over the last couple of months since hearing it.

One Barnabas - As humans we all love to be encouraged. Encouragement from others is sometimes the only thing that gets us through difficult times. Barnabas was a man of encouragement. We need to have in our life someone that is reaching out to encourage and uplift others. They are selfless and always looking to others' needs before their own.

One Paul - We need someone in our lives that has been through it before. Someone that we can go to when we need advice, guidance, or help with a problem/struggle that we are experiencing. Paul was a mentor to Timothy. Paul had seen it and experienced it. He was willing to lend advice and council to Timothy as Timothy was growing in the ministry.

One Timothy - As was just mentioned, Timothy was advised by Paul while he was a young man doing the work of the Lord. He was willing to listen and take the advice of Paul and use it. We need someone in our lives that challenges us to be the example that we should be. We need to have someone in our lives that we are looking to help and make a difference in their life.

Who is your Barnabas? Who is your Paul? Who is your Timothy?
Nick Pace

CITYSLICKERS AND REDNECKS IN THE SAME PEW

The church is made up of people who are different. In the New Testament people from all kinds of backgrounds were converted and became members of the same congregation. Paul said what mattered is that they were Christians. In Christ he said there is “*Neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free; but Christ is all, and in all*” (**Colossians 3:11**). They were to be humble and loving toward each other regardless of culture or social standing (**Colossians 3:12-15**). When you think about how different these groups were, it is amazing that they could have unity.

Jews and Gentiles were very different, and yet when they were baptized they often found themselves sitting beside each other in the same congregation. Though the Law of Moses had been nailed to the cross, Jewish members were slow in giving up many of their customs. Jews were taught not to eat pork and some other meats. Gentiles ate things that disgusted Jews. Think of what a dinner on the ground must have been like! No wonder we read sections like **Romans 14**. These Christians had to learn to separate matters of culture and conscience from matters of obligation and to have peace in the church.

Greeks were different from the Gentiles. Non-Greeks were called “barbarians.” This word is usually an insult today meaning a brutal, ignorant savage. In the New Testament, however, it simply referred to a person who was a foreigner to Greek civilization. It is like the word “heathen” in this respect. To call someone a heathen today is a derogatory word, but in Bible times it simply meant a non-Jew. Still, Greeks and barbarians were different in education, language, dress, and many other aspects of culture. Greeks sometimes looked down on these people. Yet in the church they were to love and respect each other.

One group of barbarians stood out from the rest. They were the Scythians. A Scythian was “an inhabitant of Scythia, i.e., modern Russia...By the civilized nations of antiquity the Scythians were regarded as the wildest of all barbarians” (Thayer, Greek-English Lexicon, p. 580). These people were rough around the edges compared to the Greeks and even to other barbarians. When they obeyed the gospel, however, they were Christians the same as anyone else in spite of their odd appearance and lack of social grace.

Many slaves became Christians in the first century. They were looked upon as a lower class of people. Free citizens sometimes had a hard time respecting them. In the body of Christ, however, slaves were just as much Christians as their masters. They still had to obey their owners, but they were to respect each other and follow the Golden Rule. Congregations in the New Testament often had slaves and free people. The free citizens were not to look down on slaves, and slaves were not to be resentful of those who were free. They were to love each other and be one in Christ.

What a mixture of people these congregations were! What a challenge it was for them to be longsuffering with each other! We think we have different personalities and differences of opinion in a congregation today, and we do. The population is also changing, and people move more often than people in the past did. Now congregations are even more diverse. But if all the different kinds of people in the New Testament could come together in the church and have peace, why can't we?

Kerry Duke