



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

July 11, 2021

P.O. Box 416  
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**Elders:**

Kendall Bear  
Dana Carter  
Don Chandler

**Deacons:**

Larry Brackett  
Aaron Evans  
Larry Hill  
Steve McCreary

**Minister:** Dale Barger

**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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## The Sin of Doing Nothing

“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (**James 4:17**). The meaning of this passage is clarified and enforced by some of Jesus’ wonderful lessons.

**THE GOOD SAMARITAN (Luke 10:25–37)**. The sin of the priest and Levite was that of passing by on the other side. The Samaritan commends himself to us because of his compassion and kindness—love in action.

**THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS (Luke 16:19–31)**. The fault of the rich man consisted not in cruelty but in neglect to minister to the man who had been “*laid at his gate*.” He did not do the good that was in his power to do (**Proverbs 3:27**).

**THE TEN VIRGINS (Matthew 25:1–13)**. Though listed among the friends of the bridegroom, the five foolish virgins were barred because they had not prepared themselves for the occasion. The person who does not prepare his heart and life, in harmony with divine direction, will be confined to the darkness of the outside.

**THE TALENTS (Matthew 25:14–30)**. The third servant was not a criminal. He had not been wasteful. He had buried (preserved) that which had been given to him. His sin was the failure to put into circulation the sum that had been entrusted to him.

**THE SHEEP AND THE GOATS (Matthew 25:31–46)**. The people on the right side of the throne were blessed because of the deeds of love they had done; the people on the left were lost because they had not rendered service. No man should entertain the idea that the Lord will bless him merely because he does no evil. Positive goodness, as well as negative, is divinely required.

Frank L. Cox

# Accidental or on Purpose

by Steve Klein

An insurance agent was writing a policy for a cowboy. “*Have you ever had any accidents?*” the agent asked. “*No, not really,*” replied the cowboy. “*A horse threw me off and kicked me in the ribs once, and I got bit a couple of times by a rattlesnake; but that’s about it.*” “*Don’t you call those accidents?*” demanded the agent. “*Oh no,*” said the cowboy; “*They did them things on purpose!*”

Sin is seldom if ever accidental. We may say that we “*didn’t mean to do it*” or “*didn’t mean to say it,*” but, most of the time, that isn’t really true. Righteousness isn’t an accident either. Jesus didn’t by accident live a sinless life. It took purpose of heart to resist temptation and do right at every turn.

Barnabas encouraged Christians that “*with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord*” (**Acts 11:23**). Paul commended Timothy because he had “*carefully followed*” Paul’s “*doctrine...*” (**2 Timothy 3:10**). The life of a Christian is lived with a sense of purpose; by those who choose to do right.

This applies to our speech too. We must choose to say the right things. David wrote, “*...You have tried me and have found nothing; I have purposed that my mouth shall not transgress.*” (**Psa. 17:3**) David was right before God; because he had determined to control his mouth. The Bible says that, “*If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue; but deceives his own heart; this one’s religion is useless*” (**James 1:26**).

“*The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.*” (**Prov. 15:28**) He “*studies how to answer!*” The NT commands, “*Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers*” (**Eph. 4:29**).

Job’s three friends had a lot to say that was useless. Of them and their words Job says, “*I have heard many such things; Miserable comforters are you all! Shall words of wind have an end? Or what provokes you that you answer?*” (**Job 16:2-3**). Job’s friends had not chosen to speak words that had a positive effect.

We must give thought to the impact of our words. Words are powerful, and they will not be for good unless we purpose to make them so. Let’s do our best to make sure that what we say is what we mean to say; and that what we mean to say is good.

Edited from the New Georgia Bulletin, 3/29/09