



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

July 12, 2015

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

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 10:00 a.m.

Email:

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Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

IN GIVING, YOU LOSE NOTHING

The Christian faith always placed a great emphasis on giving. This is due in part because we serve a giving God. He is a God of abundance (**John 10:10; James 1:5; Psalm 103:8; Isaiah 55:1-7; II Corinthians 9:8; Romans 5:20**), and He loves to give. He sacrificed willingly on the cross and then invited us into fullness of life. As His children, we are called to imitate Him (**Ephesians 5:1**). Therefore, our generosity in giving is a demonstration of God's character and a response to what He has done for us.

The Bible teaches that Christians are called to be a light to the world (**Matthew 5:14-16**). One way we show that light is through our generosity in giving. Generosity shines a light by pointing others to God; it is an appropriate response to what God has done for us. Not only does our giving demonstrate God's character to the world, it results in increased faith for us. When we are willing to give, we declare that our faith does not depend on material possessions. Instead, we show that our faith is in God, who is always faithful to provide (**I Kings 17:7-16**).

John Bunyan, the author of *The Pilgrim's Progress*, wrote, "A man there was though some did count him mad, the more he cast away the more he had." Christians are a giving people and in our giving, we lose nothing. When we give, we empty ourselves in order to be filled again by God. "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you" (**Luke 6:38**).

Chad Donley

GOD BRINGS BIG THINGS FROM LITTLE SEEDS

I read an article not long ago about a team of scientists that attempted to construct a kernel of corn. They had analyzed an actual kernel of corn and broken it down to its molecular makeup and had determined exactly what it was made of. Then, using the same “materials” they constructed an exact replica of the kernel of corn. When they planted it, however, it didn’t grow. You see, even though they could duplicate the physical makeup of the seed, they couldn’t create the germ of life. Ironically this experiment cost thousands of dollars, when God could give them a kernel of corn for free.

It is amazing how God put life in each seed and how, when the conditions are right, that seed grows to produce a plant that will bear even more seeds (**Matthew 13:8**). As the old saying goes: you can count the number of seeds in an apple, but you cannot count the number of apples in a seed! One seed brings forth amazing things when God is involved.

In **I Corinthians 15**, Paul touched on some important points concerning what we know today as annual plants – and this information is related to our salvation. *“But someone will say, ‘How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?’ Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain – perhaps wheat or some other grain. But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body.”* (**I Corinthians 15:35-38**).

In this passage, it is revealed that the plant must die to produce the seed that will bring new life. We also see that seed must be sown (planted) to produce. And finally it is important to note that seeds do not directly grow from the seed that is planted, but a plant grows from the seed.

Now, let’s make the spiritual application for us today. Just as only God can make a seed grow, so He is the only one who can give us true life. Men have developed many plans of salvation, but when “planted” they will not grow into eternal life. We must give up on trying to make salvation for ourselves and accept God’s. When we die to self (are “planted”) in faith and baptism, God gives us a new life (**Romans 6:3-5**). Then when we are “planted” in faithful death, on that final day God will raise us up with new bodies fit for heaven (**I Corinthians 15:42-57**). Just be the submissive seed and let God be God and He will grow you into something beautiful – in this life and the next.

Edd Sterchi