



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

July 13, 2014

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
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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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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

CAN YOU HEAR HIM CALLING YOUR NAME?

While I was in school at Harding, I worked on the campus to help pay my expenses. I occasionally worked with a young man from Germany named Edgar Knobel. The name should give a clue to his nationality. Edgar and I had some unique situations in our conversations. He had his German accent and I had my rich southern accent. You can imagine how many times the statements, "I beg your pardon" and "could you repeat that?" occurred in our conversations.

When Edgar was very young, he and his family were captured by the Nazis and put in a concentration camp. The living conditions must have been atrocious, to say the least. The barracks were old and over-crowded, cold in the winter and filthy in general. With new prisoners being brought in regularly, they had to eliminate some of the people in the barracks. Edgar said they would come to the barracks and call out names to be taken out and shot. They were lined up against a building and shot to death in plain view of the prisoners. In fact, they were **STRONGLY** encouraged to watch.

There was an old man in the barracks with Edgar and he told him one day that if they came in and called Edgar's name before they called his name he was going to take Edgar's place. His reasoning was that he was old and didn't have many years to live if they were fortunate to get out and Edgar was young and had his whole life to live. At first, he thought how fortunate he would be, but then with some serious thinking, he told the old gentleman that he couldn't let him do it. Sure enough, they came to the barracks and called Edgar's name for the firing squad. The old man said, "Here," and passed by Edgar with a smile on his face. Edgar was speechless over the ordeal. He was fortunate enough to still be living when the allies came and delivered them from the concentration camp.

Edgar told me this story following our conversation about Jesus taking our place to save us from the wrath of God because of our sins. He said that each Lord's Day when he took the emblems to remember that Jesus had in essence called out his name and suffered death in his place, he recalled the old man who died for him in the prison camp. If only we could be so touched each Lord's Day by vividly recalling Jesus' death for us, calling out our name to the Father and taking all our sins to the cross, how much more sincere our participation would be.

Can you hear Him calling your name?

William C. Pulley

WHITEWASH CAN BE DANGEROUS

It may be that the most famous use of whitewash in literature is found in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. You may be familiar with Mark Twain's fictional account of how Tom "conned" his friends into whitewashing a fence by making them believe it was fun and that it was a rare opportunity to **get** to participate in this "wonderful activity."

According to some translations of the Bible, God had a message for His people that involved whitewash. Unlike the scene in Mark Twain's book, there was nothing humorous about this message in God's book.

Please consider these sobering words concerning the false prophets of Ezekiel's day:

"Precisely because they have misled my people, saying, when there is no peace, and because, when the people build a wall, these prophets smear it with whitewash, say to those who smear it with whitewash that it shall fall!" (Ezekiel 13:10).

Notice carefully what is being described in this translation of this verse. The people built the wall. In the context, the wall was to be their protection, but it was made from inferior materials. Interestingly enough, it was those who claimed to speak for God who whitewashed the inferior wall in order to merely make it look like everything was alright.

Ezekiel could very easily have been talking about our own society. Is it not true that many who claim to be religious leaders, are, in fact, religious whitewashers? It is difficult to think of a type of improper worship, false doctrine, and/or abhorrent lifestyle that has not been "whitewashed" by many in the "religious establishment" of our day.

For far too many people (including religious leaders) the standard of authority has long since stopped being God's Word. The Bible has taken a back seat to public opinion polls, church or community surveys, personal preferences, decisions by a congregation's leadership, etc.

Preachers are "hired and fired" based upon how effective they are in making people feel good about how they are already living. Likewise, elderships are respected or ignored based upon how well they are "keeping up with the times," not in how well they are applying God's Word in the congregations in which they serve.

There has never been a time in the history of mankind when God looked for spokesmen to give a stamp of approval to what people had already decided to do. That would make people the authority, not God.

To borrow a phrase, we need to throw out all of the whitewash and give people the unvarnished truth. As long as we make sure we are "...speaking the truth in love..." (**Ephesians 4:15**).

Jim Faughn