



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

July 14, 2019

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Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

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Larry Brackett
Steve McCreary

Minister:

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Secretary:

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Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

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WHY IN THE WORLD DO WE HAVE VBS ANYWAY?

I know that VBS is a challenge. I mean if you have been around children for any length of time you know if you get 70 (or more) children together – you have your hands full.

But it is important! This week, I fired up my computer's Bible search engine and began reading all the various scriptures about children. This is some of what I found:

There are over 400 different references in our Bible about children – about the joys and challenges of raising them right. But what I really found interesting is that there were two scriptures about children that really tugged at my heart.

The first was: *“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it” (Proverbs 22:6)*. Many times our kids are so bombarded by other things – such as school and athletics and band (which are good) – that they do not have much time to study God's word. As parents and grandparents, we should encourage our kids – and their friends to be a part of VBS. As dedicated Christians, we should be willing to do what we can to help the children of our church and our community.

The second important passage was this: *“But Jesus called the children to Him and said, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth; anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.’ (Luke 18:16-17)*. In this verse Jesus demonstrated the great value He put on children. Can we do less?

Larry Fitzgerald

Of Facts and Feelings

The movie and television industries exist to promote entertainment fantasy. One of the latest fads is the “reality” show. The only problem is that there is almost nothing even remotely “real” about these shows. So what?! Selling fantasy is about creating feelings not delivering facts. Except for a few documentaries and such, the purpose of television programming in general is to provoke emotions.

It is sometimes difficult in matters of religion to balance the dual presence of both facts and emotions. Some have argued that religion is exclusively about facts and there is no place for feelings. Not true. Others seem to care only about emotional responses and have little regard for truth.

Feelings are not equal to truth. Jacob grieved over the death of his son, Joseph, and could not be consoled by the rest of the family, (**Genesis 37:33-35**) even though Joseph was in fact not dead. The so-called evidence presented to Jacob led him to conclude his son was dead. Those “facts,” though deceptive, caused Jacob to “feel” exactly the same as if Joseph was truly dead.

In **Acts 23:1**, Paul stated that he had lived with a clean conscience before God all his life. Later, to Timothy, he would say that he was the chief of sinners (**1 Tim. 1:15**), guilty of blasphemy and violence (**v. 13**). How could both be true? Simple, Paul actually did the deeds of animosity and destruction against the church while denying that Jesus was the Christ. However, since Paul believed he was fighting for God he felt good about his actions. Later, when he learned that he was wrong in what he had believed and was wrong in what he had done he felt very bad about the same actions he had previously felt good about.

Jacob’s feelings of loss did not change the truth about Joseph. Paul’s feelings of zeal in persecuting Christians did not change the fact that he was wrong and was harming the church of Christ.

Whether one is in a lost or saved condition cannot be ascertained by the emotions that one feels. It is one’s obedience to the word of God, and not feelings that determines salvation. However, when one has come to understand the truth of God, it is normal, and expected, that feelings will follow. The response of the Jews in **Acts 2:37** shows that a proper understanding of the truth of the gospel can bring about deep convictions and that obedience to the word of God can also evoke great emotions “and he went on his way rejoicing,” (**Acts 8:39**).

Tim Orbison