



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

July 16, 2017

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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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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 greatest value He put on children. Can we do less?

Larry Fitzgerald

WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO DO?

In order for many of us to achieve our goals and dreams of this life, we must be willing to do things. In order to become a teacher, I had to graduate from high school and college with the appropriate degree. To live a healthier lifestyle, one must be willing to exercise, choose what they eat wisely, and eat proper portion sizes. In order to become the proper Christian that God calls us to be, we must be willing to do certain things.

Looking at the life of Paul, we see that he was willing to do many things for God and in service for the Lord. Paul was willing to tell others about Christ. Immediately after his conversion, Paul was preaching and telling to others about Christ. Paul was willing to travel to far away places to preach the Gospel of Christ enduring long and difficult journeys. Paul was willing to be stoned and dragged from cities while he preached Christ. Paul was willing to live many days of his life imprisoned due to the fact he was preaching and teaching about God. We see the great example that Paul left us in what he was willing to do. But what about in our lives?

In our lives we must be willing to do many things:

1. We must be willing to fully submit our lives to God. **James 4:7** says to “*submit yourselves therefore to God.*”
2. We must be willing to keep God’s commands. **John 14:15** says, “*If you love me, keep my commands.*”
3. We must be willing to repent and change from our sinful ways (**I John 1:9**).
4. We must be willing to confess Christ before others through words and actions (**Matthew 10:32-33**).
5. We must be willing to be immersed into the watery grave for the forgiveness of our sins – (**I Peter 3:21**).
6. We must live faithfully, even in times of suffering and hardships (**Revelation 2:10**).
7. We must be willing to give, not only of our money, but also of our time, energy, and talents (**II Corinthians 9:7**).
8. We must be willing to worship God in spirit and in truth (**John 4:24**).
9. We must be willing to sacrifice for the cause of Christ (**Hebrews 13:16**).
10. We must be willing to love God first and everyone else second (**Matthew 22:37-39**).

What are YOU willing to do for Christ today?

Nick Pace