



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

July 26, 2015

P.O. Box 416
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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.

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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

BLESSINGS WE ALWAYS HAVE

As my youngest daughter (who is 4 years old) prays, she inevitably expresses thanks to God for the blessings that He provides. However, when she states it, there is a truth that she adds in which many of us adults forget. She prays, "Thank you for the blessings that we always have." It is true isn't it? God "daily beareth our burden" (**Psalm 68:10**) and faithful men "abound with blessings" (**Proverbs 28:20**).

Even the unrighteous are blessed through God's faithfulness in creation (**Matthew 5:45; Acts 14:17**). The physical blessings that every man enjoys come from God: "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above" (**James 1:17**). God wants us to be happy and satisfied so that we can see and access the greater blessings (that have always been in His mind) in the spiritual realm. To "always have" those blessings we must choose to be in Christ's church and keep ourselves in the love of God (**Matthew 16:18; Jude 21**). To be "in Christ" one must have the faith that leads them to repent and confess Christ and be baptized "into" Him (**John 3:36; Luke 13:3; Acts 8:37; Galatians 3:27**). God had a plan before the world began for mankind to receive the ultimate blessings of mercy, grace, redemption, and eternal life in His Kingdom through obedience to His only begotten Son (**II Timothy 1:9; Titus 1:2**).

Think about it: Christ was "slain from the foundation of the world" so we could always have blessings (**Revelation 13:8**). God chose that the faithful in Christ would always have blessings "before the foundation of the world" (**Ephesians 1:4**). At the end of time, the Lord and King will allow the righteous to always have blessings in the "kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (**Matthew 25:34**).

Let us be thankful for the "blessings we always have!"

RECEPTIVITY

Receptivity is the desire to hear and the willingness to accept God's Word! The Master exhorted, ***"Therefore take heed how you hear"*** (Luke 8:18). This admonition concluded His teaching about the different soils (hearts) on which the seed (God's Word) falls. Some hearts are hard. Some hearts are shallow. Some hearts are distracted. Some hearts are good. Good hearts are those who are prepared to receive His word.

Understanding the importance of hearing God's Word, we are not surprised to find receptivity frequently discussed in Scripture. Consider these statements by the Master.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6).

"He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" (Matthew 11:5).

"When He had called the multitude to Himself, He said to them, 'Hear and understand'" (Matthew 15:10).

"And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, 'Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!' But He said, 'More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it'" (Luke 11:27-28).

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me" (John 10:27).

Receptivity, the desire to hear and the willingness to accept God's Word, is evident in the grand stories of conversion. Consider these:

On Pentecost *"those who gladly received his word were baptized, and that day about three thousand souls were added to them"* (Acts 2:41).

When Philip asked the eunuch if he understood what he was reading, he responded, *"How can I, unless someone guides me?"* He invited Philip to help him (Acts 8:30-31).

Saul of Tarsus said, *"Lord, what do You want me to do?"* (Acts 9:6).

Cornelius told Peter, *"Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God"* (Acts 10:33).

These, and many others that could be cited, demonstrate receptivity! Contrast them with those who say, "I don't come to Sunday School because I don't get anything out of the lesson" or with those who habitually arrive late or with those who talk and play, totally disinterested,

during worship. When it comes to the Word of God we all need to be “*swift to hear*” (**James 1:19**). God loves big ears and receptive hearts!

“Therefore take heed how you hear...”

Dwight Fuqua