



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

July 26, 2020

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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

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Secretary:

Susan Chandler

Service Times:

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

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David's Prayer in the Cave

It was in one of the lowest points in his life that David finds himself hiding in a cave praying to God. He says, *“With my voice I cry out to the Lord; with my voice I plead for mercy to the Lord” (Psa. 142:1).*

David describes the circumstances that have caused him to feel discouraged. He says in **verse 4**, *“Look to the right and see: there is none who takes notice of me; no refuge remains to me; no one cares for my soul.”*

How often do we find ourselves feeling this same way? It could be the people we work with that don't see the value of our Christianity. It could be friends at school pushing us to break our Christian values. It could even be our own families that don't care for our souls.

David felt the loneliness of desertion with his own son, he felt betrayal from Saul, and he even willfully separated himself from God when he went after Bathsheba.

Many times we find ourselves in the cave. It could be that outside circumstances have put us there, or we sinned and are feeling the consequences of those choices.

Put yourself in his shoes, hiding in a dark, desolate and damp cave feeling alone and deserted by everyone. Everyone except God. David never lost sight of God, and he knew that God would answer his prayer.

When we find ourselves in the dark, feeling deserted and alone, don't lose sight of God. He will never turn His back on a struggling Christian. He cares for your soul.

Carl Pollard

I Wish I Would Have...

I wish I would not have played so timidly during my high school basketball career. I wish I would not have taken chapel attendance as a suggestion my freshmen year of college. I wish, I wish, I wish... The list could go on and on in my life and I'm sure you could as well. There are so many things that we look back on and think, "I wish I would have."

I was blessed, recently, with an opportunity to speak with a father about raising children. This man spoke to me about some decisions that he and his wife made throughout their children's formative years. Toward the end of the conversation he said something that I'm sure resonates with many parents: "I wish I would have..." This father was speaking specifically about the lack of faithfulness in his children. The father spoke about changing "this" and changing "that," and how, if he would have done "this" differently then maybe his children would be faithful today. I can honestly say, I feel bad for this man.

I cannot imagine how painful it would be to see your children grown up into adulthood and living an unfaithful life. So here is my plea to parents: do not miss an opportunity with your children to promote faithfulness, love, and devotion to the Lord (**Eph. 5:16-17**). What you promote now, at whatever age your children are, will most likely be what they put value in now, and in the future. "*Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up*" (**Gal. 6:9**). Promoting spiritual things is not always easy or convenient, but those who continue to do so will see results in the future.

Ultimately, I would imagine that all parents have things they wish they would have done differently. In light of that, consider each day as a blessing from God and an opportunity to promote faithfulness, love, and devotion to the Lord. Choose to take action for God so you will not look back and say, "I wish I would have..." "

Austin Johnson

You Have 24 Hours

Odds are that the vast majority of you who are reading this have more than 24 hours to live. But what are you going to do with the 24 hours that you have? Are you going to...

- give a word of encouragement?
- mend broken bridges?
- help someone in need?
- turn off the TV to read God's word?
- put down the phone to read God's word?
- serve the church the way you're called to?
- live like you had 24 hours to live?

You're going to do something over the next 24 hours. It's up to you (**Ephesians 5:15-16**).

Eugene Adkins