



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

July 30, 2017

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
865-354-0855

Elders:

Dana Carter
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

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

DO YOURSELF A FAVOR

If you were going to do the best thing you could possibly do for yourself, what would that be? If there is one thing in life that you could have over anything else, what would it be? These two questions are not exactly the same, but they are very closely related.

Sometimes the thing we want the most may not be the best thing we can do for ourselves.

Once a man approached Jesus as He was walking along the road. The young man ran to Him and knelt at His feet and asked, *“Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?”* **(Mark 10:17)**. Jesus responded by telling him to keep the Law of Moses. This was the law that was still in effect during the life of our Savior. The young man stated that he had kept the Law of Moses from his youth. At this point, Jesus challenged him concerning genuine faith.

“One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me” **(Mark 10:21)**. The young man did not obey this command of the Son of God. He went away in sorrow. But why?

The reason is simple and applicable to each one of us. Until we come to a willingness to give up what matters in life to us most, we cannot be disciples of Jesus. Jesus himself proclaimed, *“So likewise whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple”* **(Luke 14:33)**.

It seems fair that the One who gave up heaven and separated Himself from God on the cross with our sins would also require a similar sacrifice. We are only Christians when we follow in the footsteps of Christ. A servant is not greater than his master.

If you want to do yourself the greatest favor you could ever do, then forsake everything you have and follow Jesus.

The second favor is like unto the first. Build relationships with people who care primarily about your soul.

“For whoever desires to save his life will lose it but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.” **(Matthew 16:25)**.
Jeremiah Tatum

BEARING THE BURDENS OF LIFE

I recently saw a T-shirt with the words “Life is Good” written across the front. There is no question about it; life is good for the Christian because he has fellowship with God, all spiritual blessings in Christ (**Ephesians 1:3**), and the hope of heaven in his heart (**Titus 1:2**).

Nevertheless, even for the Christian, there will be many burdens to bear. Scripture affirms, “*Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble*” (**Job 14:1**). In this life, there will be terminal illnesses, tragedies, family and marital troubles, many heartaches, and death.

However, God has promised that with each burden He will provide the strength to sustain His children: “*Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee: He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved*” (**Psalms 55:22**). The following are some Scriptural ideas that will help us deal with the burdens of life:

Remember to take it “one day at a time.” No one can live tomorrow until it comes, so one might as well live for today. Jesus taught us to do this. “*Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof*” (**Matthew 6:34**). Don’t worry about tomorrow, next week, or next year, just make it through the day.

Depend on friends and family for encouragement and comfort. Christians are to bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ (**Galatians 6:2**). In time of trials, having a spiritual family to depend on is indeed a wonderful blessing.

Get closer to God. It is possible for one who is suffering to get bitter and turn from God. The Christian must have the faith to hold on to God and know that He is “*a very present help in trouble*” (**Psalms 46:1**). By prayer and reading God’s Word, we can get closer to God. We talk to God and He talks to us. His Word will comfort us in times of despair. Paul wrote about “*the comfort of the Scriptures*” (**Romans 15:4**).

Be assured that there is a better world to come. Jesus said that in His Father’s house are “*many mansions*” (**John 14:1-3**). The “house” of which Jesus spoke is, of course, heaven – a place where there will be no more “*death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain*” (**Revelation 21:4**). In view of these beautiful verses, the Christian can look forward to a better world to come, a world free from the cares, burdens, and trials of this life.

Mark Lindley