



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

July 31, 2022

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Dale Barger

Service Times:

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

Email:

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Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

Will You Withstand God's Refining?

“And the people of Israel went up and wept before the Lord until the evening. And they inquired of the Lord, ‘Shall we again draw near to fight against our brothers, the people of Benjamin?’ And the Lord said, ‘Go up against them’” (Judges 20:23).

It had come to this. When God's people had first entered the Promised Land with Joshua so many years before, they were God's instrument for justice against the pagan nations about whom His longsuffering had run out. The Israelites shrank back from obeying God and eventually blended in with the cultures around them until they were indistinguishable and the Sodom-like scenario of the previous chapter occurred. Thus, the corrupt-but-slightly-better eleven tribes went to war against the worst one. After just one day, the losses were staggering, but God, who had promised Abraham that his descendants would number like the stars and sand, in His justice had them fight a second and then third day. Sin has devastating consequences, and God is constantly refining His people as silver through the fire. Not all Israel is Israel, and not all the Lord's church is His church. If you compromise with our culture, will you withstand God's refining?

Doug Kashorek
Plattsburgh church of Christ
Plattsburgh, NY

What You Can't See

Sometimes I know when I'm in error. I've been around enough to know the sins that I am most tempted by. When my willpower fails and I commit one of these sins I know immediately afterward that I did wrong. God, forgive me for "*the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak*" (**Matthew 26:41**). That being said, with these kind of things at least I know where the battle is. The enemy is obvious and it's just a matter of defeating him by relying on God.

Perhaps more difficult is when I don't know I'm in error. How do I fix what I don't know? I'm willing to acknowledge that there may be some areas of my thinking that need changed. I'm willing to acknowledge that it's possible that something my parents taught me is wrong. That something years of teachers have drilled into my head is wrong. I certainly think that about other people, people growing up in denominations and other religions. I believe things they've been taught for years are not correct. And do they know that? Maybe not. At least, not until someone with "*beautiful feet*" comes by.

What about me? Judging other people's deficits seems easy. But am I qualified to do so if there is a "*plank*" in my own eye? Maybe I just got used to the plank and I think that's the way people normally see. To avoid this possibility I think it's very important to be humble, and to spend time daily with the Word of God. I think it wise to never believe myself to have "*arrived*." Then I can be constantly open to the truth God is still trying to teach me through the Word and through other people.

Part of wisdom is the willingness to accept correction. "Whoever heeds correction shows prudence" (**Proverbs 15:5**). If I can't listen to other people then I'll never find out what I can't see for myself. My physical vision is lousy, so I wear glasses. I'll take all the help I can get spiritually too.

Doug Wells
Camden Avenue church of Christ
Parkersburg, WV