



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

July 5, 2020

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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
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 pm

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The Ocean Waves of Life!

Have you ever stood in the ocean when the waves are rolling in? If you are not prepared and standing with your feet firmly set, the waves can easily knock you down. The Bible uses this idea of “standing firm” and “holding fast” when describing how we need to be living our lives. The term “hold fast” is defined as “to continue to believe in or adhere to an idea or principle.” The closely related word “steadfast” is defined as “resolutely or dutifully firm and unwavering.”

We are to hold fast to God and be obedient to Him. *“It is the Lord your God you must follow, and Him you must revere. Keep His commands and obey Him; serve Him and hold fast to Him” (Deuteronomy 13:4).*

We are to hold fast to our faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Savior. *“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession” (Hebrews 4:14).*

We are to hold fast to the teachings that we have received through the Bible. *“So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter” (II Thess. 2:15).*

We are to continue steadfast in the work of the Lord. *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Cor. 15:58).*

Are we standing firm or letting life’s worries wash us away like ocean waves?
Brad Tolbert

What to Do With Treasures

In one of Jesus' parables a servant was handed a mina (a piece of valuable currency). There were clear instructions on what to do with it: *"Put this money to work...until I come back"* (**Luke 19:13**). Some of His fellow servants did a great job with this. They used what talent they had to diligently make the money grow. But not this man. His fear led him to put the money in a piece of cloth. The master was so displeased with only getting back what was originally given that this servant lost everything.

Did you know that the Word of God is sometimes described as a treasure? *"The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold"* (**Psalms 119:72**). It is a treasure that is handed to us every time we open up our Bibles or hear the Word explained. Some people are wise enough to store up this treasure in their hearts. And that's a good thing – a much better option than just letting it bounce off of hard hearts and heads. Can you imagine what would have happened to the servant if he said "yes master, you gave me the money, but I didn't think it was important so I just left it lying on the ground"? He was at least wise enough to keep it safe!

But, as the servant found out, storing a treasure isn't the end of our responsibility. We need to put what we have to work until the Master comes back. Committing the message to memory is not an end in itself. The Word is meant to be used! We cannot let our fear cause us to keep the Word to ourselves. It is a treasure that is meant to be multiplied, invested in the hearts and minds of others. Is there a risk in sharing the Word? Sure. It may cost us all kinds of things in this world. But if we share, one Christian can turn into two...or maybe even five or ten! That's worth the risk. So, I encourage you to read scripture. I encourage you to commit it to memory. But I especially encourage you to apply what you have learned and share it with others. Only the servants who multiplied what the Master gave received the reward. If you want to be one of them invest the message instead of burying it.

Doug Wells