



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

July 8, 2018

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Deacons:

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Steve McCreary

Minister:

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Service Times:

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:30 pm

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GPS SIGNAL LOST!

By **Jon Warnes**

This is all I heard when I had Laura's broken cell phone thinking I had just cured what was ailing it. Thankfully, though, I was made aware of the recurring problem.

How do we know when we've lost our 'signal' with God? When our relationship is not in-sync with His will? First things first, the Bible is the only life-map for everyone (**II Timothy 3:16-17**), the directions are always the same even within varying times & cultures (**Acts 1:8; I Corinthians 4:17; Colossians 1:5-6**), and it has always been God's intent for everyone to follow His route in order for us to be safe (**I Timothy 2:3-4**). By way of reminder, it is practiced sin that removes us from a relationship with God (**I John 3:4; 5:7**). Here are just a couple ways to know when we are straying:

First, through our own conscience, that inner catalog we keep of right vs. wrong (**I Timothy 1:18-19; James 4:17**). But our conscience must be shaped by God's Word. Note Paul's charge to Timothy (**v. 19**) to keep the faith AND a good conscience. Man's conscience is not God's good conscience unless we believe God's Word. Paul further says some rejected God which caused them spiritually to be shipwrecked (God's signal lost!).

Secondly, through the help of brethren. **Matthew 18:15-17** is the gold standard in helping a brother or sister in sin. To the loving Christian wanting to help out a friend in trouble, it must be done first in private, which means social media is out of the question. Gentle, loving help (**Galatians 6:1-2**) is keeping it in-house and respecting Jesus' instruction. To the brother or sister who is struggling, please understand the church loves you and wants you to come home where you belong...safe with God!

REJOICING ANGELS

Ever wonder what causes the angels in heaven to shout for joy? There are several instances of angels proclaiming joy, and they all seem to have a common thread.

The first instance of the heavenly host expressing joy is during the creation of the heavens and the earth. Recounting the incident, God tells Job that when it happened, *“the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy”* (**Job 38:1-7**). Most Bible scholars agree that the morning stars and sons of God are in reference to angels, who apparently were created prior to the earth. So in this instance, we see the angels being joyous because of God using His creative powers to make something that had never existed before.

Let's look at another instance of the angels showing joy. When the proper time came (**Galatians 4:4**), God sent His Son to be born of the human race. It is at this time in announcing the birth of the Messiah to the shepherds that angels proclaimed it a time of *“great joy”* (**Luke 2:8-14**). So here the angels express praise and joy at the coming of the Christ-child, the God-Man, Jesus. As in the creation, they are expressing joy over something that had never before existed.

There is one more instance I can find in the Bible of the angels expressing joy – and this one directly involves us. In **Luke 15:10** we are told that *“there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”* Seeing a sinner come to God and becoming a new creation brings great joy to the angels.

From these three instances, I think we can clearly see that angels get excited over new creations. Think about it: when we have our lives made new through baptism into Christ and we continue to live each day renewed in the Spirit, the angels rejoice over us. What an encouraging thought!

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them!” (**Revelation 12:11-12a**).

Edd Sterchi