



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

June 13, 2021

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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Dale Barger

Secretary:

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 Christian's Priorities

Perhaps certain ones of us need to get our priorities straight. It may seem somewhat naive to some to say that if more professed Christians would “*seek first the Kingdom of God,*” fewer problems would exist in the Lord’s Church, but the statement is nevertheless true!

The reason that early Christians were so successful in proclaiming the gospel was that God occupied first place in their lives. Their religion was not a “*once-a-week*” affair for Sunday display. To them Christianity was a serious matter which they demonstrated every day! (**Acts 2:46**) The first-century disciples did not consider religion to be a recreation, neither did they view it as a social need. These people made no distinction between life and Christianity because to them Christ was the only one who offered meaningful life (**John 10:10**).

Could we gain some lessons from examples set by the Christians 2,000 years ago? How often do we let things come between us and God? When we fully learn the concept of total involvement we will realize that the Lord comes ahead of other things. If the Bible does not teach this, then this writer certainly has misunderstood the scriptures.

When we swallow and digest this lesson we will have no problems getting people to attend church services, participate in the worship, teach classes and do personal work. God’s work is never done well when it has to play second fiddle!

Art Smith
via Nettleton church of Christ
Jonesboro, AR

The Preparation Dilemma

"David said, Solomon my son is young and tender, and the house that is to be built for the Lord must be exceedingly magnificent, of fame and glory throughout all countries: I will now make preparation for it. So David prepared abundantly before his death" (I Chron. 22:5).

What are you prepared to do? How much preparation have you made? Are you prepared to pay the price? Have you prepared for every contingency? All of us have asked and answered these questions many times. The answers are always important and sometimes they are critical to our success.

Our first encounter with the preparation dilemma was probably in the fields of academics and sports. You do remember what you said, don't you, when you came to the realization that preparation was crucial to success? *"If only I had studied more, I could have made a better grade."* *"Why did I wait until the last minute to start on this research paper?"* *"If only I had spent more time practicing, we could have won."*

Nearly every day, we struggle with the preparation dilemma. We deal with it in business, the home, and the church. It affects us as individuals, as spouses, as parents, as children, and as brethren. Now the questions haunt us, because it's not grades or trophies, but life, which hangs in the balance. *"Am I ready for marriage?"* *"Do I have what it takes to handle this job?"* *"Am I mature enough to be a good parent?"* *"Have I weighed all the options, covered all the bases, and prepared for results of this decision?"* Tough questions! Hard decisions! The choices aren't always easy; the answers aren't always simple to find.

Sadly, in making preparation for all the important events of life, we often overlook the most pressing preparation priority -- ETERNITY! While building our beautiful bungalows, establishing our earthly empires, and funding our financial futures, we must not forget, life here on this earth is only temporary. As the old song says, *"this world is not my home, I'm just a passing through!"* That's why Jesus warned, *"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Mt. 6:19-21).*

Does that mean we can't ever enjoy any of the finer things in life? Absolutely not! Paul wrote, *"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ...laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life" (I Tim. 6:17-19).*

God wants us to be happy and to enjoy life, but He wants us to put our trust in Him, not earthly things. He then asks us to share our happiness by using His blessings to help others and glorify His name. Thus, because of His grace through Christ, and in obedience to His will, by doing good, and keeping our eyes fixed on heaven, we can be abundantly prepared for eternity!

David McCain

Church of Christ Information and Studies