



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

June 27, 2021

P.O. Box 416
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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

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Authentic Freedom!

“*Freedom*” is a powerful word, full of all sorts of meaning to different people. Some people think freedom refers to political liberty, such as we have in the United States under the constitution. Others think freedom means being able to do whatever one wants morally. Some even think freedom means doing whatever one wants, regardless of the rule of law.

However, authentic freedom is based on the word of God and the work of His Son Jesus Christ! In **John 8:36**, Jesus said, “*Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.*” One becomes free indeed by knowing the truth (**John 8:32; 17:17**) and obeying the truth (**Matt. 7:21-27**). This authentic freedom Christ offers is composed of three facets:

1. **Freedom from the burdens of life!** In **Matthew 11:28**, Jesus says the sinner is “*heavy laden.*” Jesus tells us to bring that burden to Him. **Hebrews 12:1** says to “*lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us.*” Jesus can free us from those weights, as well as the burden of false religion and traditions of men (**Matt. 23:3-4**).

2. **Freedom from bondage to sin!** The Jews that Jesus was speaking to in **John 8** were not only in bondage to the law and to the traditions of men, but they were also in bondage to sin (**John 8:44**). Christ not only could free them from the law (**Col. 2:14**), but also from the guilt of sin (**Rom. 3:23-26**).

3. **Freedom from blindness!** Jesus could open their eyes to the truth, if they so desired (**John 8:32**). Once one recognizes the power and importance of God’s word, he no longer has to be worried about being fooled by the false doctrines of men (**Eph. 4:14**), if he will continue in the things God teaches in His word. Paul’s mission to the Gentiles was to “*open their eyes*” (**Acts 26:18**).

So while we celebrate our political and social freedom on July 4th, let us also focus on and remember our spiritual freedom that comes only through Christ Jesus! He frees us from the burdens of life, from bondage to sin, and from blindness! Are you free indeed?

Matt Clifton
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Clean Air

There's a new heat pump on the south end of the "*preacher's home*." I was there when the repair guys were pulling out the old one. The compressor died. It was no big surprise as all mechanical things fail, wear out, or break, sooner or later.

However, there was an unexpected bit of information waiting to be discovered. As the old unit was removed and the "*innards*" exposed to the light of day, the inside coil was about 80% blocked to airflow.

There's an air filter to make sure that only "*clean*" air can get into the system, but the filter was being bypassed. The return air duct was leaking under the house and allowing unfiltered air into the air handler. Eventually it plugged up the coil and the compressor went "*kablooey*."

Take a look at the following quotes.

(Proverbs 4:23 KJV) "*Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*"

(Philippians 4:8 KJV) "*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*"

These verses say something very important about what we allow to get into our hearts and minds. They also speak to the things that we think, feel and talk about.

If we think about, read, watch and listen to evil things, we should not expect our heart and mind to remain "*uncontaminated*." Just like our home air conditioners, our minds and hearts need to be filtered. In order to be clean, they need to be protected from unclean things.

The very sad story of the flood begins with these words, **(Genesis 6:5 NKJV)** "*Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*"

It is foolish to think that the things that we and our families watch, read and play will not have any effect on us. Humans are designed to take in and process information, and children are like little sponges, sucking up everything they touch.

If we bypass the filters and load up our hearts and minds with trash, we should not be surprised if we suffer a spiritual heart attack.

Here is part of the clean air solution: **(Psalms 19:14 KJV)** "*Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.*" Amen!

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