



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

June 28, 2015

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
865-354-0855

Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Kirby Hinds

Secretary:

Susan Chandler

Service Times:

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:30 pm

Monday

Ladies class 10:00 a.m.

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

THE STEADFAST LOVE OF THE LORD

We all have times where the circumstances of our lives seem overwhelming. It is just the nature of life among sinners upon a cursed earth. If you have some trouble believing it to be true, then you should know that though Jesus lived in absolute moral perfection (**Hebrews 4:15**), yet He was at times overwhelmed, too (**Mark 14:33-34**).

We may find ourselves overwhelmed or even discouraged from our circumstances. This can just be part of our humanity, as in Jesus' case, or it could be as a result of our failures, our missed opportunities, our own sin, and the sin of others.

The prophet Jeremiah was called upon by God to teach and preach to God's people and lament their circumstances (**Jeremiah 1, 5, 20**). God's people had generally lived like the world, following sinful desires and committing idolatry, (**See Jeremiah 2, 5, et al.**), and they were being punished by God for their sins.

Jeremiah endures the same tragic and sorrow filled circumstances as the rest of the nation, but he is filled with God's word (**Jeremiah 20:8-9**) and has the benefit of the hope that comes from knowing God, who gave His word. If you read **Lamentations 3:1-20**, you can see the sad shape things were in. We don't usually talk about these first 20 verses, because they are so sad.

However, the next four verses fill us with hope! We remember them. We even sing them, regularly, because they remind us that our hope in God is far greater than our circumstances, because our God is far greater than our circumstances! It is the steadfast love of the Lord that keeps us going. It encourages us. It fills us with hope. It reminds us that the Lord is our portion, and we know it in our souls to be true! Please, hear the message of these ancient words and be encouraged by God's love for His people and the newness He offers them because of His faithfulness.

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion" says my soul, "therefore I will hope in Him"

(Lamentations 3:21-24)

Jay Don Poindexter

DO YOU HAVE ANTLERS OR HORNS?

Recently I spent a day hiking in the woods, checking on my trail camera, and looking for shed antlers. At the end of every winter the white-tailed buck loses his antlers. The most prominent, identifying feature about his body is lost in the woods. The buck will remain slick headed until the summer when he begins again to grow a new set of antlers. Think about it for a minute...one of the most identifying factors, the buck sheds every year. The antlers are what many hunters seek after, and display so proudly. Yet these prominent appendages are temporary and disposable.

Let us make a spiritual application. Is there anything that we have in our lives that are just for show? Do we have anything that becomes so prominent in our life that it becomes the first thing people associate with us? Are these things temporary and disposable in nature?

Think about Peter's words, "*...the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved...*" (**II Peter 3:10-11**). Anything that we have in this life that is worldly will one day be shed like last year's antlers! Do we, like the buck, have things that are prominently displayed in our lives, yet are temporary in nature?

What do people associate first with you? Your job, car, golf game, collection of _____ etc... All of these things are temporary and will be disposed of upon leaving this life. Jesus tells us to "*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal but lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven...*" (**Matthew 6:19-20**). We will shed the things of this life, no matter how important or prominent we make them in our lives.

This brings us to other animals like antelope and rhinoceroses. These animals have horns that grow throughout their entire lives. These prominent, cranial decorations are kept forever. Like these animals, there are some very prominent things in our lives that should be permanent. As Christians, our Christianity should be the first thing that people associate with us; it should be prominent and permanent! It should grow for the entirety of our spiritual lives (**I Peter 2:2**), and should be the most visible thing about us (**Matthew 5:14, 16**).

Do you have antlers or horns? Are you willing to shed your earthly "antlers" and seek first the kingdom of God (**Matthew 6:33**)? Are you willing to grow your faith into something that is prominent and permanent in your life? Antlers or horns? A deer is a deer with or without its antlers, but what would a rhinoceros be without its horn? A Christian can be a Christian without worldly accessories, but can't function without their faith.

Josh Robinson