



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

June 7, 2015

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Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

Minister:

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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.

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IT'S HARD TO GIVE IT TO GOD

By Chris Moore

Sometimes when we go through tough stretches (often made by our own hands!), we procrastinate from turning to God. We think that because we make dumb decisions that we must always figure out a way on our own. God would help us if we would turn to Him. At least if we turned to Him, we would be more likely to hold ourselves more accountable and stop making unwise decisions.

Matthew 7:7 tells us to seek and ask God and He will answer. He doesn't always answer in the way we expect, but we can be confident that His answer is always right! Having complete faith in God and trusting Him goes a long way in bringing comfort and stability to our lives.

We've programmed ourselves into believing we can and must be able to overcome all adversities without any help. That is so far from the truth and gives no place for our Lord. If we could solve all problems, then Jesus died for nothing. Man could never solve his sin problem because he (we) is (are) so weak. If we couldn't solve our sin problems, why would we think we have the solution to all of our other problems?

Please don't misunderstand. I'm not saying that we just pray to God and stand back and be a spectator! We must be part of any solution. We do what we can and ask God to please make up the difference. **Philippians 4:13** tells us that we can do all things, but it reminds us that we have divine power on our side to make things work. I'm not speaking of miracles, but God's help. I can't know when and how exactly God helps, if I did that would constitute a miracle. But, I can know that God is with me and is doing things that I can't see or feel that are in my favor.

It all comes down to allowing God in our lives and lending His almighty hands to our problems. We must have faith and trust in Him. Have you ever had a friend or loved one tell you, "Let me handle it?" Give it to God sometimes, let Him handle it.

I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT... (II Timothy 4:7)

No one says that he has fought the “*good fight*” unless he perceives that the game is about over. The fourth quarter is about to expire.

When Paul wrote these words he must have thought that the end of his life was at hand. In the previous verse he wrote, “*The time of my departure has come*” **(II Timothy 4:6)**. The Greek word for “departure” means to loosen or to undo. Albert Barnes wrote, “It is applied to the act of unloosing or casting off the fastening of a ship, preparatory to a departure.” In other words, Paul thought that his death was imminent. As he wrote, the mooring lines that attached his life to this world were being cast off. He was about to set sail for his next life in eternity.

“*I have fought the good fight*” acknowledges the choice that each person makes about the quality of conflict that one engages. Do not mistake this fact: Any life is a fight. Even the ones not fought for God and truth are battles. It is a battle to live, to provide for self and family. It is a battle to gain a reasonable measure of dignity that allows one to feel that there is worth to life. It is a battle to stay healthy, to maintain hope and to seek justice. These fights will be engaged by everyone, for without some kind of fight there is no life. Without a fight, life simply withers and dies.

Paul however chose a fight for a calling higher than all callings. He chose to enlist in God’s army and march behind His banner. He allowed Jesus to become General in command of his life. When he did, the forces of evil amassed against Paul. His battle wounds at times were physical. He even once referred to the “*brand-marks of Jesus*” that he proudly wore as battle-scars **(Galatians 6:17)**. Paul’s military service in this spiritual army demanded and received all he could give for there was nothing more dear to him. At one point he wrote that all he surrendered to Christ, his wealth, his influence, his high-standing in the Jewish community, he then counted but rubbish **(Philippians 3:8)**.

What a charge for us today to not just fight the everyday battle of life that everyone else will fight and finally lose, but to choose a fight that will give meaning to life far beyond all else. It is the “good” fight that guarantees a hope and a joy for tomorrow when our own moorings are finally cast off!

Floyd Kaiser