



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

March 10, 2019

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
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Todd Houston

Secretary:

Susan Chandler

Service Times:

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

DOING YOUR BEST

Many years ago in a textile factory there was a sign on the wall which read: "If your threads get tangled, send for the foreman." One woman who was fairly new was a diligent worker, but her threads got tangled one day. She tried to disentangle them, but her efforts only made matters worse. Finally she gave up and called the foreman. He came and looked for a few moments and then asked: "You have been trying to untangle them yourself, haven't you?" "Yes," she replied. "Why didn't you send for me, according to the instructions?" She shrugged her shoulders and said: "I did my best." With much tact, yet, with great insight, he quietly said: "Remember that doing your best is sending for me."

How often in life have we tried to straighten out our own messes, only to make things worse, and certainly not to solve things? We think that a little more human effort, a bit more human wisdom, and a touch of human ingenuity are the solution. But mankind in general and individuals in particular tend to make the same mistakes over and over again. Bad habits remain in place. Errors are repeated. We may even excuse our conduct by saying: "I did my best." Then God gently, yet firmly, reminds us: "Doing your best is calling for me."

Paul did the best that he could do, but it was not good enough. He mused: "*I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate...I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do...Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?*" **(Romans 7:15-24)**. But Paul had learned that to call on the name of Jesus was the best he could do and the solution to his problem **(Romans 10:9-13)**.
Joel Stephen Williams

THE SIN OF SODOM

The Bible relates that God destroyed the city of Sodom because its inhabitants *“were wicked and were sinning greatly against the Lord”* (**Genesis 13:13**). What was the wickedness which brought God’s wrath down upon them? Some homosexual advocates try to make the sin of Sodom that of inhospitality. They argue that because the Sodomites refused to show hospitality to the two messengers sent to rescue Lot that God destroyed the city. But this is a biased misinterpretation of the Scriptures.

It is clear that the primary sin in which the inhabitants of the city were guilty was homosexuality. The men of Sodom were demanding same-sex relations with the two messengers (**Genesis 19:4-5**). Later, New Testament writers described those who lived in Sodom as ones who led *“filthy lives”* (**II Peter 2:7**) and who *“gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion”* (**Jude 7**). Also, according to Webster’s dictionary the word “sodomy” is a play on the name “Sodom” and refers to abnormal sexual activity between persons of the same sex.

Any attempt to eliminate the sin of homosexuality from the cause of destruction of Sodom is a dishonest effort to twist the Scriptures. It is always better to honestly accept the will of God as conveyed by the Biblical text. We all will be held accountable to this standard on Judgment Day.

The Biblical record depicts homosexuality not only as a sin; but as a degraded perversion that goes against the very norms of nature. It is a moral filth and flagrant perversion of God’s design as it pertains to human sexuality. It is not my intent to make homosexuality out to be more of an atrocity than it already is. But neither is it my desire to water down the Biblical language in which God depicts the grossness of this immorality.

Millions of dollars were donated to help pass laws within our country which helped legalize homosexual marriages. But know that all the money in the world along with all the human laws a nation can pass will never make sexual perversion acceptable to God. Our country’s political leaders, are practicing self-deception if they think they can merely pass legislation which will offer a stamp of approval for “gay marriage.” This is all being done under the guise of human rights and equality. And it is detrimental to the moral fiber of our country. Don’t be deceived by those efforts which please the devil and not God.

Stephen Wiggins, edited