



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

March 16, 2014

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

Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Bobby Bear
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 am

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

BRING OUT YOUR TREASURE!

We often hear people boasting about what they would do if they had a million dollars. Buying a house for momma, giving to the poor, and endowments to the church frequently appear at the top of the list. When it comes to material goods, men like to engage in hypothetical situations.

But what about the treasure you do have? Jesus tells us in **Matthew 12:35** that there is a storehouse of spiritual treasure in our hearts. If you are a child of God, you have good things to give!

If you want to help someone in a lasting way, you have to bring out your treasure!

Treasure of Encouragement. Paul tells us how to speak to one another in **Ephesians 4:29** and **Colossians 4:6**. He looked forward to mutual encouragement in the faith (**Romans 1:12**). Be like Barnabas, who was a great encourager (**Acts 4:36; 11:22-24**). Mark Twain once said, "I can live for two months on a good compliment!" Don't make folks wait that long!

Treasure of Love. We have amazing gifts of real love to bestow on those around us, because we have learned from the Master (**John 13:34-35**)! Don't let it go to waste! Love the brotherhood (**I Peter 2:17**), love your neighbor (**Mark 12:31**), and love your enemy (**Matthew 5:44**).

Treasure of God's Word. The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field (**Matthew 13:44**). If you've learned about the kingdom, you now have treasure to share (**Matthew 13:52**). Don't take for granted the power of God's wisdom in the Bible. There is no more precious gift than the gospel of Jesus Christ (**II Corinthians 4:7**).

We can't always follow our heart (**Jeremiah 17:9**). Only a heart that is trained by God's Word knows the direction to go. If you are a Christian, then you've got to show others the Way (**John 3:16; 8:24; Matthew 10:32-33; Acts 2:38**). If you are not a Christian, but you believe Jesus is the Son of the Living God, repent of your sins and put Jesus on in baptism today (**Galatians 3:27**).

Matt Clifton, McCrory, AR

THE STRENGTH OF YOUR ENEMY IS NOT YOUR OWN

Those who oppose Christians and ultimately God, derive their strength (or so they think) from purely physical or worldly sources. Those who are rich and use it for no good believe they are strong because of their wealth. It is easy for us to say if we just had that much money, “Think of all the good we could do.” The problem is, we are placing our faith in a worldly thing instead of God. Instead we should say: “If God be with us, who can be against us?” Money, fame, etc. is not where we get our power. God can remove those things in an instant.

In **Joshua 11**, we see Joshua and the children of Israel arrayed against enemies the Bible describes as: *“as many people as the sand that is on the seashore in multitude, with very many horses and chariots.”* (**vs. 4**). In that day and time an army’s strength was measured by its horses and chariots and troops. God told Joshua to not worry as He would deliver the enemies before Israel. God told him that when the victory was won to hamstring the horses and burn the chariots. Why? Wouldn’t it make sense to keep the horses and equipment for the future? NO! God knew that some of the people would begin to think they were strong because of their worldly things instead of being God’s people.

What made Joshua’s enemies strong could not stand before God’s might. His enemies’ strength was a fraud. In the same way, we think of the evil that goes on in the world and their strengths. The wicked often have money and corrupt people in position to help them. We shouldn’t desire those things even if we believe we could use them for good. Yes, we can use money for the glory of God. We can vote for people in positions of power to aid us in our goals. We can’t forget that ultimately, our power comes from God. **Matthew 6:33** tells us to *“seek first the Kingdom of God...”* If we do that, the promise is that God will take care of the rest. It doesn’t mean we sit around and do nothing! But, we can’t attribute strength to our finances or positions. These are tools that God allows us to have if we are seeking His counsel and help.

Maybe you and I have some “horses to hamstring” in our lives. Maybe we’ve become dependent on worldly things that actually are hindering us instead of blessing us. Let us trust in God and know that His will shall be done. We are only as strong as the One who is with us.

Chris Moore