



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

March 17, 2019

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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

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DO YOURSELF A FAVOR: FORGIVE

Do you remember Peter's exchange with Jesus concerning forgiveness? Peter asked, "*Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times?*" Rabbinic teaching demanded one forgive his brother three times. Peter surely thought himself generous to double the amount and add still another to it. But Jesus turns this whole matter of keeping mental records on its head by replying, "*I say not unto you 'until seven times': but, 'until seventy times seven'*" (**Matthew 18:21-22**). Bitterness, resentment, and a refusal to genuinely forgive those who have injured us will backfire every time, always compounding our level of misery. I once heard of an epitaph, engraved upon the headstone of an unkept, long-forgotten grave, which sadly read, "Died of Grudgitis." I wonder how many thousands - perhaps millions - of death certificates could correctly list "grudgitis" as a contributing cause of death? Have you ever heard someone bark through clenched teeth, "I'll get even with them if it's the last thing I do?" Too often it is. Perhaps the cause of your sleeplessness, your tight, churning stomach, or your throbbing head is no more than your refusal to let go of a seething, simmering anger.

Harbored, hateful unforgiveness,
Seeming harmless at the start,
Soon becomes malignant business,
Like a cancer in the heart.

If you are painfully enduring a relationship constantly strained by your bitterness and harbored resentments, do yourself a favor. Yes do yourself a favor.

Forgive.

Dalton Key

“IN A LITTLE WHILE...”

How many times when we were children did we ask our parents when something was going to happen or be over with? “How much longer until we get to grandma and papa’s house?” “How much longer until we eat?” “How much longer do we have to sit here?” “How much longer until we leave?” “How much longer do we have to stay at this place?” And we can just hear our mother or father answer back, “Not too much longer. It will all be over in a little while.”

As human beings we are constantly moving to and planning about the next thing. We are impatient and we don’t like waiting. We anticipate events and opportunities and things on our schedule. Because of all of these things we are prone to wonder how long things are going to last, how long will be the in between in the moments of our day, and how long until we will get to do the next thing on the list. I think we are probably going to continue to go through these types of experiences and feelings for the rest of our lives.

But one thing that does change over the years is what we anticipate. How long do we get to go to the pool turns in to how long is this doctor’s visit going to take? How long do I get to stay up becomes how long before I get to go to bed? How long is this preacher going to keep preaching turns into....well...ok, maybe somethings stay the same. But the answer keeps coming back to us just as our parents once gave it. It will all be over “in a little while.”

Jesus spoke to the apostles about “a little while.” He said He would only be with them for a little while (**John 7:33**). He said He as the light was only here to guide their steps a little while (**John 12:35**). He said in a little while they would not see Him because He was going back to the Father (**John 16:16-17**). He said they would be sorrowful for a little while, but that their sorrow would be turned into joy (**John 16:20**).

When you think about it, we should be glad that things only happen and last on earth for a little while. What if disappointments never led to new opportunities? What if injuries never healed? What if grieving over loss never lessened or was never replaced by precious memories? What if even happy events never ended long enough for us to diversify our interests and get involved in some other form of joy?

Earthly life is only for a little while. It was not meant to be forever. The truth of this fact not only allows us to be thankful for the day, but it reminds us of eternity where the perfect things last forever, and we will be in the presence of God and comforted and at peace in a place where we will never want anything that is going on to end.

We have great anticipation as children of God, that we can ask our Father in Heaven how much longer until Jesus comes again to take us home, and hear Him answer back to us with an ever gentle and loving smile....”My child, everything will be as it needs to be, in a little while.”

“For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry”
(**Hebrews 10:37**).

Even so, come Lord Jesus!

By Jeremiah Tatum