



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

March 18, 2018

EXPECTING UNEXPECTED TURBULENCE

On a recent overseas flight, first the flight attendant and then the captain announced over the intercom that the seatbelt signs had been turned on because they were “expecting unexpected turbulence.”

There’s nothing like a good oxymoron to entertain exhausted airplane passengers. However, the long flight gave me ample time to contemplate the idea of expecting unexpected turbulence on our Christian journey.

The Christian life is a journey – a long journey, with quite a bit of turbulence. And the turbulence we experience often comes at unexpected times. And, while we might not be able to predict when turbulent times will come, we can and should expect them.

In preparation for the turbulence in life, the Christian needs to buckle up. In other words, we need to utilize the safety measures we have at our disposal.

Understanding that God is ever-present in our lives provides a strong belt of peace of mind that comes from knowing for certain that we’re protected from any calamity that might come our way.

We can be sure of this because we read in **Psalm 46:1-3** that, *“God is our refuge and strength. A very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though its waters roar and be troubled, Though the mountains shake with its swelling.”*

This journey that we’re on will be long, exhausting and full of turbulence. But getting to our destination is worth the trip.

“We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.” (Acts 14:22).

Buckle up, hang on, and enjoy the flight!

Troy Albers

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Sunday

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

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Bible Study 7:30 pm

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REACHING OTHERS

One of the major components of being a Christian is to evangelize and spread God's Word to others. Jesus taught and spoke of this many times throughout His life and ministry. He taught the 12 apostles to go out into the world and teach others about Him. Jesus lived His life reaching out to others. He culminated all of this with the "Great Commission" in **Mark 16**.

"And He said to them. 'Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned'" (Mark 16:15-16).

Jesus told His apostles to go and reach out to people. Always be reaching to bring someone to Christ. Always keep your eyes open for opportunities to share the Gospel with someone. Always be living your life in a way that displays the qualities of Christ.

We are to take this same command and live it out in our lives today. Not a single person has ever believed and obeyed Christ without first hearing about it from someone. *"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).*

We must be "proclaiming" the gospel as Jesus says we are to be doing in **Mark 16:15**. Proclaim it with words and actions. Don't just say it, but live it also. It is our responsibility to spread the message of Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament God spoke directly to the prophets. In the New Testament God used His son, Jesus Christ, to reach out and to teach. Today God is using the church to spread the message of salvation, hope, heaven, and all the many other blessings He provides.

Are you reaching out to others? When was the last time you reached out to someone, genuinely concerned about their spirituality? Do you have the "Great Commission" memorized, yet are not living it out in your life? It all begins with an invitation. Invite someone to church, to study the Bible, to talk about Jesus, etc. Go ahead and give it a try. See what happens. You just might change someone's eternity!

Nick Pace