



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

March 23, 2014

P.O. Box 416
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Rockwood, TN 37854
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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

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4 KEYS TO SPIRITUAL REVIVAL

In an old, familiar song, worshippers blend their voices and ask God to “revive us again.” To revive is to restore to life or consciousness, to give new strength or energy, or to improve one’s position or condition. Are we really seeking that kind of revival?

Some of us are too comfortable where we are to truly ask that God revive us. Why would we want God’s revival when we have good jobs, enough money both to pay the bills and to enjoy our hobbies, and good standing with our fellow man? Why breathe new life into Christianity when you’ve been “going to church” for decades, and you feel good about your spirituality? We must be careful that we do not deceive ourselves (**James 1:22**).

Spiritual improvement is not easy, but it is necessary. **Psalm 119** offers at least four key ingredients that will help us to be truly revived.

DAILY BIBLE READING. Revival will not happen apart from God’s word. Sensationalism and emotionalism may make people feel good, but it will never begin to do what the powerful word of God can do (**Romans 1:16**). The psalmist said, “*Revive me according to Your word*” (**Psalm 119:25, 107, 154**). How much time do you spend in God’s word each day?

DAILY BIBLE APPLICATION. Spiritual revival will come from more than mere exposure to God’s word. Reading the Book must be followed by applying the Book. This is the hard part. We are revived in righteousness (**Psalm 119:40**). “*All Your commandments are righteousness*” (**Psalm 119:172**). Taking care of our sin problem through the blood of Jesus in baptism (**Romans 6:1-4**), followed by continual holiness as we walk in the light (**I John 1:7**) is vital to spiritual revival. We must protect ourselves from sins of all kinds; sins of conduct, sins of speech, and even sins of thought (**Cf. Psalm 119:37**)!

TENDER HEARTEDNESS. God’s word is designed to prick hearts (**cf. Hebrews 4:12**), but our hearts must be tender enough to accept what the word teaches. God’s ways are best (**Jeremiah 10:23**); His justice is true and right. When God’s Word rebukes, we must be willing to listen and to conform to God’s will. The psalmist said, “*O LORD, revive me according to Your justice*” (**Psalm 119:149, 156**).

HUMILITY. The Bible is a message of grace (**Titus 2:11-12**). God loves us, and the Bible tells us the extent to which He loves us (**John 3:16**). The psalmist felt that understanding God’s grace and God’s love was key to obedience to God, and thus, to spiritual revival. He said, “*Revive me according to Your loving kindness, so that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth*” (**Psalm 119:88, 159**).

You may be surprised at the power of the Gospel in your life when you, through humble obedience, read and apply the Scriptures. It is designed to convict us, to cut to the heart, and to bring us to our knees in godly sorrow (**II Corinthians 7:10**).

May this ever be our prayer: “*Hallelujah! Thine the glory, revive us again!*”

By Robert Hatfield

HURRY UP AND WAIT

The country group Alabama released their “American Pride” album in 2000 which included the song “I’m In A Hurry (And Don’t Know Why)”. This song is the epitome of the American way of life. The modern house often is not designed with a front porch because people rush home from work to sit in front of their televisions or go out to work on something else. Time to just be still is vanishing rapidly. James wrote, *“Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand”* (James 5:7-8). Have you gotten in such a hurry you forgot what you are even doing here on earth? Let us refocus.

When there is so many things that need to get done, it is hard to be patient while the checklist still has empty boxes. Have you ever been working on something and could not rest until it was complete? During the Christian walk, we can get anxious waiting through hard times which James called suffering (5:10). Anything good is worth waiting for though. *“Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful”* (James 5:11). Patience is personified in Job.

Suffering often brings on bickering. James recognizes this and wrote, *“Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door”* (5:9). Suffering will come in the Christian walk, but how we respond to that suffering will depend on how patient we are. It is easy to get in a hurry in life, rushing around to try and numb the pain that suffering brings. As far as the coming of the Lord is concerned, all we can do as Christians is hurry up and wait. We do not know when the Lord is coming back, so all we can do is wait patiently, without grumbling to one another, and live righteously. Do you have the patience to hurry up and wait? God shows us patience everyday, let us do the same for him as we eagerly wait for our Savior’s return.

Casey McDonald