



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

March 26, 2017

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Deacons:

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Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Todd Houston

Secretary:

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Service Times:

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:30 pm

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PLEASE & THANK YOU

Are basic manners (such as saying, “Please” and “Thank you”) old-fashioned and a thing of the past? Why is it that adults have a hard time expressing appreciation for things they have been given?

Zig Ziglar (known as “America’s Motivator”) has some interesting thoughts:

“Of all the things a parent can teach a child, manners rates very close to the top of the “must teach” list. Number one, when a child is taught, from the time he or she can talk to say “thank you” you are teaching that child thankfulness. Number two, the insertion of the word “please” in a request changes the child from a demanding person to one who accepts the fact that when they ask a favor or make a request, the parent has no automatic obligation to respond favorably to that request. Response to “please” is much better than the “get this for me” demand type of approach. The child must be taught the idea that they must first serve before they can earn the right to command.”

Being kind, courteous, and grateful will never go out of style or become old-fashioned.

Let us strive to be gracious, respectful, and considerate of all with whom we come in contact. And may we always count our blessings –being grateful to our heavenly Father for His love and mercy.

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you”
(Ephesians 4:32).

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”
(I Thessalonians 5:18).

Bart Warren

KEYS TO OVERCOMING THE WORLD

In Revelation, there is a lot of figurative language and many difficult symbols. Because of that we often avoid reading the book. But in it are some great Bible helps. One of them is found in chapter 12, where we learn how Christians are to overcome the world.

To preface what is going on, in verses 7-10, we read about war breaking out in heaven, and Michael and his angels fighting with the dragon and his followers. We see that the dragon did not prevail and he was cast out of heaven. Because of this, Satan (the dragon) roamed the earth persecuting and tempting God's people. Then, in verse 11, we read that the Christians prevailed to overcome Satan and his worldly ways: *"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death."* In this passage are the three keys to overcoming the world. Let's examine them in a little more detail.

The Blood of the Lamb. We need to always remember what Jesus did to make salvation possible. It is only because of His sacrifice upon the cross that we have the opportunity of salvation in the first place. Too many times we do not trust enough of our lives to Jesus. The first key to overcoming the world is giving Jesus all of our lives and trusting in Him and the power of His blood, come what may. This begins with our baptism into Him and continues through a life of faithfulness.

The Word of Their Testimony. Not only did the early Christians trust Jesus, but they knew and lived His Word. The word of our testimony is the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ. We must love it, learn it, live it, and laud it. By doing so, we gain the knowledge and encouragement necessary to overcome the world and its sinful ways. We can only gain this through serious Bible study.

They Did Not Love Their Lives to the Death. The final key we must examine is that of separating oneself from the world. Christians may live in the world, but they are not to be of the world. Nothing on this earth is to be so precious to us that we are not willing to give it up for the cause of Christ (our lives included), and we show it in our attitudes and actions.

Are you having trouble overcoming the world or the temptations of the world? Maybe it's because you have not put enough trust in Jesus. Maybe it's because you do not read and live His word enough. Maybe it's because you do not separate yourself enough from the lost world and worldly ways. That's how the first century Christians did it – and if we are to overcome, that is how we will do it also.

Edd Sterchi