



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

March 6, 2016

P.O. Box 416
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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

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

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PERSISTENT & PASSIONATE PRAYER

To pray or not to pray was not a question King David struggled with. David wrote in **Psalms 55:17**, *“Evening and morning and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and He shall hear my voice.”*

Persistence was one of David’s goals when it came to prayer – is it one of ours? Do we even have a goal? When is the last time you prayed three times in one day? Was it last week when you attended all the services on Sunday? Was it on your way to see the doctor? Was it on your way to a job interview? Was it a day filled with turmoil, or a day of rest? Was it just “another” day? Which day was the last day that you talked with God at least three times, and why did you do it?

According to **James 5:16**, *“...the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man accomplishes much.”* Would you say that fervent covers three times a day? Could it be more? Could it be less? Does it matter?

Numbers aside, I would suppose that whether you are talking about “showers of blessings” or just “plain rain,” James is pointing out the truth about prayer – it works when it’s used passionately!

Now, does that mean just because we ask for something fervently (whether it’s for us or for someone else) that the Father will agree with it? Not necessarily; there might be a reason that we don’t see as to why our prayer is not answered with a yes...at least for the moment.

Don’t forget that Jesus taught His people to make their way through life by praying passionately and persistently, even when the answer seems like a definite no (**Luke 11:1-13**).

Praying three times a day can keep a lot of things from us or it can bring a lot to us. So keep in touch with God, and don’t be surprised when His blessings touch you.

Eugene Adkins

WOLVES IN THE FLOCK

It seems that, as time passes, more and more people do not want to hear the Bible. Let me rephrase that; more and more people do not want to hear the “old time way of thinking” about the Bible. More and more Christians do not want to hear sound doctrine. “Sound doctrine” has become intolerant, unloving, and hard-hearted. In times past anyone who stood on Biblical principles was held in high esteem. Now Bible –believing people are labeled bigoted, unloving or archaic.

Sadly, times have changed and so have we. We no longer want to accept a gospel of “one way.” We can no longer accept a gospel of “God’s way or no way.” We can no longer accept a gospel that demands obedience. We have outgrown that way of thinking. Being progressive means that we and our faith are based on love, love that is defined as tolerant, open to all ideas, open to all people and open to every way of thinking. To be any less is intolerant and old-fashioned. Passages such as **Romans 14** are used to defend this new mindset. This passage centers on personal rights and accepting each others’ differences. According to the “new mindset,” this passage teaches that we are not to sit in judgment on anyone about anything. Throw in **Matthew 7:1** and we must, according to the “new mindset,” accept anything and anyone’s ideas.

In this age of “political correctness,” being moral or having spiritual values is socially wrong. Sharing or teaching these morals and values is intolerant and oppressive. The politically correct believe that loving God enough to obey His word has become the downfall of America.

The sad fact, brethren, is that we Christians are part of this downward spiral. Unfortunately, we are leading this kind of thinking in some areas. We often encourage this kind of thinking and misapplication of Scriptures. We allow this kind of mentality to take residence in our hearts and soon we are as guilty of “crucifying the Son of God afresh” as the atheist or agnostic.

Where does it stop? How far will it go before we realize what is happening? How long will we sit by as the world changes the church instead of the church changing the world? We are a peculiar people, a royal priesthood, a chosen generation – we are different from the world. Are we afraid of being different? Maybe our hearts are so full of the world that we don’t really care. Maybe our hearts are inhabited by Satan, and we like it this way.

Elders, preachers, teachers, and followers of the gospel of Jesus Christ, beware! Satan is going all out to entice us, and he is using our own brethren as temptations. If I may, let me quote from the old, outdated book, “...*take heed unto yourselves and to all the flock...for I know this, after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you not sparing the flock*” (**Acts 20:28-29**). Brethren – the wolves are here!

By David Stofel