



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

March 7, 2021

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Dale Barger

Service Times:

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

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Being a Good Neighbor in Difficult Times

In recent days I have seen some concerning trends. With the increase in mask wearing and the need for social distancing, people are becoming more isolated than ever before in our society. People are not talking to each other in public places like they once did. We have real challenges when it comes to showing the love of Christ during this time. We also face the very real danger of illness when it comes to reaching out to others and helping those in need. Let's remember Jesus' teaching about loving our neighbor.

In reply Jesus said: *"A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise" (Luke 10:30-37).*

The Samaritan faced very real barriers to being a good neighbor. Social, racial, physical danger, and financial barriers had to be overcome in order for him to help the man he found left for dead on the side of the road. It may take more effort than we are used to, to stay safe, but are we willing to overcome the barriers and be the good neighbor we are called to be?

Brad Tolbert
Monticello church of Christ
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The Watchers

When I was a kid I loved collecting and reading comic books. Several characters have stuck with me even today. Among them are a group of alien beings called The Watchers. The Watchers are beings that have great powers to manipulate time, material, and space. They spend their time in observance of all the different worlds of the comic book universe. In doing so, they collect information on every group of beings that can pop up on the pages of Marvel Comics. However, with all their power and all their knowledge, The Watchers were unbelievably boring characters to me as a child. The reason for this is very simple. The Watchers, as their name indicates, were prohibited by their own vows from interfering in the affairs which they observe.

I fear that many of us who claim the name of Christ as our Savior are just like The Watchers I found so boring as a child. Today's churches are filled with those who stand by and observe many of the atrocities of this world and refuse to act on any of them. We see the destructive forces of Satan on our homes, our families, our schools, our friends, our government, our community and our society as a whole without being moved to action. We speak about how good things used to be when we followed God, but sit by watching when opportunities are presented to share the Gospel with those who do not follow Him. We speak of the horrors of poverty and sickness but won't lift our fingers to help the needy of this world. We hear some who bash the church and her members but will not speak up to defend her. Perhaps we need to make this a little more personal. We see the sin that we allow to exist in our own lives without repenting of that sin and its evils.

Christianity is a religion of action. "*But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves*" (**James 1:22**). Let us never be found guilty of being like The Watchers from my childhood comic books. Instead, let us put aside the childish things. Let us intervene when we see pain in our world. Let us act when we see opportunities to evangelize. Let us defend Christ and His church when we can. In short, let us be the DOERS of God's Word.

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