



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

May 15, 2016

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
865-354-0855

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

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

YOU MAKE THE CHOICE

Bible study is great because it makes us set our minds on things we ought to consider.

Two Sundays ago in the adult class, we studied Jesus' miracle in Mark chapter 5 when he healed the man possessed by many demons. Our teacher brought up the point that people were upset with Jesus because He healed the man, and gave the demons permission to go into the pigs. The swine subsequently ran off a cliff.

Later in the same chapter, there is the account of Jarius' daughter who was healed as well as the woman who had an issue of blood for many years. The interesting thing I (and others noticed) was that while the people who lived in the Gerasenes wanted Jesus to leave, the people across the other side of the Sea of Galilee were happy Jesus was there (**Mark 5:21**).

The same thing happens today. We make a choice about whether we want Jesus in our lives or not. If we want Him there, then we will love Him enough to obey His commands and come into our lives. If we don't, He won't have anything to do with us.

Notice **Mark 5:18**. After they "began to pray Him to depart out of their coasts," Jesus went to His ship and prepared to sail. The only one to stop Him was the man who had been healed.

What's your decision about Jesus? Do you love Him enough to obey the gospel and Jesus' commandment, or do you want Him to leave you alone? It's your decision. Jesus won't force himself on anyone. He wants you to decide in His favor. What will it be?

John Henson

IT IS FINISHED

When talking about His sheep and how He was the Good Shepherd, Jesus said, *“For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father”* **(John 10:17-18)**. The Father loved Jesus and let Him know that no one could take His life. God had a purpose in sending Jesus and nothing would deter God’s Son from completing all that was set in front of Him.

We come to the last statement of Jesus from the cross. He has shown mercy, compassion, honor to His mother, reliance on His Father and dedication to His mission. Now He shows authority and victory. It might seem foolish to say that in death, especially a humiliating death on the cross, we might see authority and victory, but this is not how Jesus saw it. Let’s look at what He said. John records, *“Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’ And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit”* **(John 19:30)**.

Jesus knew that all prophecy had been fulfilled with His taking the sour wine. The Passover was finished and His time to give His life as a ransom for ours was at hand. His mission was done. Matthew, Mark and Luke record Jesus as *“calling out with a loud voice,”* but John tells us what He said in that cry. *“It is finished!”* My task is complete. I have done what I came here to do. Then John continues, *“He bowed His head and gave up His Spirit.”* This could also be translated, “He laid back His head and allowed His spirit to depart.” John paints a picture of Jesus laying His head back in relief, then giving His spirit permission to depart. Jesus said that the Father had promised Him, no one can take Your life from You. You have the authority to lay it down then pick it back up again by My power. And that is exactly what happened. Indeed, Jesus was victorious and showed great authority in this final scene.

Now, what does this tell me about my life? Jesus was given all authority in heaven and on earth. **(Matthew 28:18)**. That means He has authority over our lives as well. Your life, your spirit, and your victory are all in Christ’s hand. Just as He was perfect in ruling over His life, we can be sure that He will be perfect taking care of our lives as well. Trust Him with your life and He will always be there for you in whatever cross you may be bearing.

Bill Williams