



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

May 15, 2022

P.O. Box 416
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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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I Want To Go To Heaven

“Every athlete exercises self-control...They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one...” (1 Corinthians 9:25)

John “Pepper” Martin played for the St. Louis Cardinals and was the star of the 1931 World Series. Following one of those games, Pepper was interviewed by a newsman. The first question he was asked was, “Pepper, what’s your chief ambition?” Without hesitating, Pepper responded, “My chief ambition is to go to heaven.”

The newsman who interviewed Pepper Martin laughed at his response and said rather sarcastically, “Oh, you want to play a harp, eh?” Martin shot back at him, “My friend, I don’t think that is funny. I know you don’t mean to be a smart aleck, but there’s something wrong with a person’s attitude when he’s flippant about serious things. If there’s anything foolish about reading the Bible every day and believing what it says, and if there’s anything funny about wanting to go to heaven when you leave this world, then I’m afraid life here isn’t worth living.”

What a goal! To go to heaven. I’ve often asked people, “If you could go anywhere and do anything, what would you choose?” The responses have been interesting. A common response is, “I’d like to go to Europe, Paris, or to Greece, etc.” I don’t remember anyone saying, “I’d like to go to heaven.”

The Christian life is like running a race. In the ancient Olympic games, the winner received a perishable wreath of ivy or pine. We are in a race for an imperishable wreath that will never decay. We want to go to heaven. Nothing we gain in life, in our careers, or accumulate through wealth will be taken into our caskets. Our friends will not go with us. We will go alone. All earthly treasures will be left behind. But we look beyond these temporary trinkets to an eternal home where we will live for all eternity. In the words of our hymn, “Heaven will surely be worth it all.”

Al Behel

The Great Smoky Mountains church of Christ
Pigeon Forge, TN

Renewing Your Mind

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:1-2).

In this text, the apostle Paul calls on Christians to be “transformed.” The Greek term translated “transformed” means “to change from one form into another.” It is the same word from which we get metamorphosis, a term that refers to the changing of a caterpillar into a butterfly. So, in effect, this verse says, “Be changed from one form into another.”

After instructing us to “be changed,” Paul then reveals how this transformation occurs. Notice again: “And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.” In order for us to change our lives, we first have to renew the mind.

The renewing of the mind begins when one first obeys the Gospel and thereby becomes a Christian. However, renewing the mind is something that is an ongoing work; it is a work that will not end until one leaves this world. We must constantly give attention to this because there are so many things of the world which may confuse and distract our minds from things which are spiritual. Sinful pleasures, money and materialism, relationship problems, or just the daily cares of life can become the main emphasis of our lives. We can spend so much time thinking about these matters that “being transformed” and changing our actions is impossible. If there are things we want to change about our personal conduct and character, we must renew the mind.

Changing bad habits, breaking addictions, changing our personal conduct and character are not easy because renewing the mind is so challenging. It may take time for a renewed mind to be obtained so that behavior can be changed. Paul wrote, “That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness” (Ephesians 4:22-24). Keep putting on the new man is the point.

Begin today “seeking those things above” (Colossians 3:1-2). Set your mind on things which are spiritual. Meditate upon God’s Word. Seek God and develop a desire to please Him. Think on things which are high and holy (Philippians 4:8). Whatever your struggles are, you can “be changed by the renewing of your mind.” Don’t give up.

Mark Lindley
Chapman church of Christ
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