



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

May 1, 2016

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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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RELIABLE

It is probably sound advice that, when a car leaves you stranded, you should return the favor. Few people would keep a car that cannot be depended upon to work as needed. There may be a parable here.

Remember that David describes himself and his fellow Israelites as "*...His people, and the sheep of His pasture*" (**Psalm 100:3**). In other words, they belonged to God and were to serve according to the pleasure of His will. Recall that those rebuilding the wall with Zerubbabel identified themselves as "*...the servants of the God of heaven and earth...*" (**Ezra 5:11**). They were determined not to let anyone or anything stop them from finishing their God-appointed tasks.

Jesus used the analogy of sheep to represent His disciples. He said that His sheep (followers) will hear His voice and follow Him (**John 10:3, 16, 27**). Later, when Peter answered the council's command for the apostles to stop preaching in the name of Jesus, he said, "*...Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard*" (**Acts 5:19-20**). Peter was determined to follow the instructions of the Chief Shepherd (**I Peter 5:4**).

As members of the local church, we are sheep who make up the flock (**Acts 20:28**). We are at the same time servants of Christ (**Acts 4:29**). We must ask ourselves, "Can the Lord depend on me?" Can He depend on me to be present at feeding time (every service and Bible class)? Can He depend on me to stand up for His truth when it is under attack? Can He depend on me to give as He has made me prosper? Remember that it was Jesus who asked, "*And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*" (**Luke 6:46**). He is relying on all of us to be about His business.

J. Brooks Boyd, Jr.

THE INTOLERANCE OF TOLERANCE

Having a Biblical worldview is of paramount importance to every Christian. Not surprisingly, there is also a great deal of opposition to this worldview in our society. This week, *The Christian Post* published an article entitled, “Top 5 Christian Leaders Targeted by Gay Activists.” Some of the religious leaders so targeted include Rick Warren and Joel Osteen, neither of whom may be considered a firebrand conservative on any particular issue.

Another figure on this list, minister Louie Giglio, was invited to deliver the benediction to President Obama’s 2012 inauguration. Activists dug up a 20-year old sermon in which Giglio described homosexuality as a sin and advised the congregation to respond “lovingly but firmly” to the aggressive agenda of some of the homosexual community. Giglio was labeled as “anti-gay” and later withdrew from the program.

Those who live lifestyles contrary to teachings of God’s Word may claim to be tolerant. Many times, they are anything but. For a group wanting to be known for toleration, some activists have equated Christianity with the Ku Klux Klan, Muslim extremists, and other morally reprehensible groups. But if one wants to receive tolerance, he or she should be willing to grant it.

As Christians, we believe that the gospel is for all. We want everyone to come to a saving knowledge of God’s Son. We want everyone to follow those steps that lead to a right relationship with him. This also includes noting those behaviors and actions that will disrupt their relationship with God. Part of being included in the people of God is the rejection of these sinful activities.

Tolerance – as it is often promoted – is a true enemy of humanity. It teaches that every lifestyle is not only permissible, but should even be celebrated, as long as it does not take too strong a stand on anything (and certainly not on the Bible).

In reality, there is only one path to God: through His Son Jesus Christ (**John 14:6**). If there were only one way out of a burning building, would it not be considered foolish, if not morally objectionable, to refuse to tell others the location of the exit? Or to tell them to find their own way? Or that whatever way they chose was okay for them? In the same way, we want to tell others the way they must go in order to receive eternal life. There is no other.

Dewayne Bryant