



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

May 3, 2020

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

Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Todd Houston

Secretary:

Susan Chandler

Service Times:

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

I Never Intended to Quit!

A man who had not attended one service of the church in four years told me he had never thought of quitting the church. I reminded him that he had: (1) Withdrawn his presence from the service; (2) Refused to give his moral support to the activities of the congregation; (3) Withdrawn his financial support, for he had not given one dime to help carry on the Lord's work.

Then I asked "What else would you have to do in order to 'quit' the church? As the truth stared to dawn upon him, his expression reflected sober thoughts. He replied, "Why, Bro. Nichols, I've already quit, haven't I? Well, I surely didn't mean to! And I don't know when I did it. I'm coming back." He did too. At the next service, he was restored and three years later, he was still faithful.

Dear reader, how about you? Have you quit the Lord and His church without resolving to do so? Perhaps no one deliberately decides to quit, but many carelessly drift into backsliding. If you quit attending services, quit boosting the program of activities planned by the elders and quit giving as God has prospered you to enable the congregation to meet its budget, you need to be restored.

People rarely plan to leave the Lord. Instead of it being a conscious decision, it usually happens through inattention to Bible study, to prayer, to worship, to working in the Lord's church, etc. You may have already quit the church and you didn't even realize it. It was with this possibility in mind that the writer of Hebrews wrote, "*Therefore, we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it*" (**Hebrews 2:1**).

Gus Nichols (1892-1975)

Taming Life

James 3 concerning the tongue is fascinating. In a series of word-pictures, James describes the control of large ships and the control of powerful horses by tiny, man-made devices, before stating that all the animals of the land and sea have been “tamed” by man. Then in a surprising twist, James adds, “*but no man can tame the tongue.*” (v.8). The Greek word that James used to describe that process of taming is also used in **Mark 5:4**, in the story of the man who lived among the tombs but had been impossible to control by others.

Life is a lot like that man. We can chain it, guard it, plan it, insure it, and cry over it, but we cannot tame life. It will always be sudden, unexpected and challenging. Even in the life of Jesus, it’s obvious that He didn’t have complete control over the events around Him. That’s not to suggest that He COULDN’T have controlled them, but only that He didn’t.

Consider the events of **Matthew 14**. **Chapter 13** ends with Jesus leaving His own hometown, rejected. He then receives word of the death of His cousin, John. He goes away into the desert to be alone but gets followed by the persistent crowd. After feeding and dismissing both the crowd and the disciples, He finally gets some time alone in prayer. He walks across the sea to the disciples and gets to the other side, only to have the multitude swamp Him once more. Even the son of God did not have a tamed life!

Then is there no peace that we can have in life? If what we mean by “peace” is a totally tranquil life, with no unexpected or unpleasant occurrences, then the answer is absolutely... not! That kind of life will never be ours here on earth. We can, however, have the kind of peace that God intended for us, if we will commit ourselves to a few things.

1. We are not in control of our life or those of our family (**Jas. 4:13-16**).
2. The meaning of life is not about heaping up possessions all around us (**Lk. 12:15**) instead “having food and clothing we should be content,” (**1 Tim. 6:6-8**).
3. It is possible to learn to be happy, in whatever circumstances we find ourselves, if we want to be (**Phil. 4:11-13**), even in pain and suffering (**Acts 16:23-25**).
4. Remember that this life is a temporary place and our treasures must not be stored here (**Mat. 6:19-21**).

After pondering those things deeply do the troubles that we face now look any different? Whatever issues do remain, after following the above advice, need two more points; 1) don’t worry about tomorrow (**Mat. 6:34**), and 2) pray for God’s peace (**Phil. 4:6-7**). Life cannot be tamed but we can humble our minds and hearts to tame ourselves.

Tim Orbison