



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

May 8, 2016

P.O. Box 416
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Rockwood, TN 37854
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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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MOTHERS: THE HEART OF THE FAMILY

Nations rise and fall, empires prosper or crumble and men are stirred to great accomplishments or driven to shameful failure often because of the influence of a wife or mother. The wise poet has properly said, "The hand that rocks the cradle, is the hand that rules the world."

For most women, motherhood is a great privilege, a crowning joy and a sublime fulfillment. Perhaps the greatest privilege of motherhood is that of sharing and giving. No one shares and gives as a mother does. She shares her body with another in order to conceive. She shares it again with her unborn child. Then she shares her time, energy and talent with it after it is born in order to meet its needs and cause it to grow and develop. But most of all, she shares her heart and her love as she weeps, laughs, sorrows and rejoices with her child through the months and years of infancy, adolescence and youth and adulthood.

Motherhood, while being a great privilege, also involves obligation. No task on earth requires more dedication, greater skill or fuller commitment. Her responsibilities demand devotion to the highest ideals and patient perseverance over long years of time. Her task is formidable because there is no human obligation that is less adaptable to substitution than motherhood. You can substitute for the teacher, policeman, governor and almost anyone else but no one has found an adequate substitute for a mother's love.

The greatest writers and speakers of the ages have tried to capture the fullness of motherhood but all have failed to maximize it. Only in Scripture do we see the blessedness of a good mother fully described. *"Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her; Many daughters have done well, But you excel them all. Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing. But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised"* (**Proverbs 31:28-31**).

Happy and blessed is the home and the children of a loving mother, one devoted to her husband, children and the Lord. Let us thank God if our home is so blessed.

Gene Taylor

THEY SAW MIRACLES, YET, THEY CRUCIFIED HIM

Think of how many people in the first century had the opportunity to become children of God. For the four hundred years prior to the coming of John the Baptist, God had said nothing to anyone on the earth. The silence must have been deafening! Every man needs God, yet He said nothing to them. Then in the wilderness of Judea appeared a man dressed in the skin of camels. His voice cried out and the people knew that God had broken His silence. Men were about to be given the chance to be brought even closer to God.

The response was remarkable. *“Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to Him and were baptized by Him in the Jordan, confessing their sins” (Matthew 3:5-6).* When Jesus began His public teaching the impact was truly amazing. *“The Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John” (John 4:2).* The multitudes flocked to Him so that the only way one man of short stature could even get a glimpse of Him was to climb a tree, hoping Jesus would come that way.

When the Lord sent out the apostles and the seventy on their limited journey, even more could learn about Him in their own villages. Could anyone ever say they had not heard?

Yet they crucified Him! They saw His miracles; they sat at His feet; they heard His words! But that time came in their lives when life’s circumstances changed and all they knew of Him meant nothing. They saw His miracles, yet they killed Him. We are so perplexed how this could ever happen.

It is still happening! Every sermon has those who hear about Him and turn away. They know the words being spoken are the words of truth, but they ignore them. Every church has been amazed when those who once were leaders in the church, elders, deacons, preachers and teachers leave it all behind and go back to the world! It is still happening.

The words of Solomon seem to sum it all up. *“That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which it may be said, ‘See, this is new’? It has already been in ancient times before us” (Ecclesiastes 1:9-10).* Truth does not change. The nature of man does not change. The way men respond to truth does not change!

What does that have to do with us? We must not forget how easily we could be like them. We must nurture and feed our faith every day. *“Let him who thinks he stands, take heed lest he fall!”*

Dan Jenkins