



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

November 10, 2019

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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
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

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POWERFUL WORDS

On my frequent trips to the city, I've been watching the progress of a large building, like a Kmart store, being demolished. Although on the interstate when I passed this project, I would still slow down for an extra glimpse of the wrecking crane as it ripped through the concrete walls and metal roof.

The other day, when I passed, it was gone. The roof and walls had been crushed and loaded onto trucks until the last load of rubble was hauled away.

As I pondered this sight, it reminded me how easy it is to demolish. It doesn't take much skill or wisdom to tear down. One doesn't need to read a blueprint or give attention to details. All it requires is brute power; usually a strong back and a sturdy sledgehammer will do the trick for small jobs.

When it comes to the matter of a Christian's influence upon others, the Bible is quite clear that we are not to be in the business of demolition, but edification, i.e. building up. For instance in **Ephesians 4:29** it's written, *"Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear."*

But, one might argue, "Demolition is so easy." And, it is. All it takes are a few power words, like "failure," "hopeless," "ugly," "bad," and "worthless." There doesn't have to be any affection or carefully measured words of encouragement. It takes only a few blows of the tongue, even in gossip, to become the sledgehammer blows that shatter hearts.

May we all give care to what we say! To tear down the spirit and worth of another takes no godliness at all. To batter down those already discouraged by troubles is about the easiest task one will ever find. On the other hand, to be a masterful builder of men, to inspire love and dedication to God in those we meet, is to be like Christ Himself.

By Floyd Kaiser

Is the Genesis Flood Just a Myth?

Today, there are some who would label the first several chapters of the Bible as “myth.” They do not want to believe that God created the universe, the earth or mankind. They do not believe in the worldwide flood. Interestingly, our Lord Jesus Christ and the beloved Apostle Paul believed that these events were true. Please consider:

Jesus believed the events and the people in Genesis 1-11 were true (Matthew 19:4-6; Matthew 24:37-38; Matthew 23:35; John 8:44 cf Genesis 3:4). Those who assert that Genesis is not a true account call our Lord “a liar.”

Paul, the Apostle, believed the events and the people in Genesis 1-11 were true (1 Corinthians 11:8,12; 1 Corinthians 15:45; 2 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Timothy 2:13; Romans 5:14). Paul was an apostle inspired by the Holy Spirit to write two thirds of the New Testament. Those who reject these truths reject God the Spirit.

Those who wish to label the book of Genesis as myth are making themselves the authority in religion. Often those who do this want to insert their own ideas and commands into our faith. Instead, shouldn't we strive to trust God and His words?

Jesus said: *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4).* And our Lord scolded a group of theologians who tried to use philosophy to create doctrine. Jesus told them: *“You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God” (Matthew 22:29).*

I will put my trust in the Bible because it is the word of God not man. It is the Bible which leads us to a life of victory and joy. *“Every word of God proves true; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you and you be found a liar” (Proverbs 30:5-6).*

Larry Fitzgerald