



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

November 12, 2017

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Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

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Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
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 7:30 pm

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LOOKING BACK

“And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62).

I remember as a young boy learning the proper techniques in lawn care. The first few times on a lawn mower was with my father. He pointed out various safety procedures one must follow at all times when mowing. After several weeks of instruction, I was given the keys to the tractor. I'll never forget that first trip around the parameters of our lawn. I kept looking back to where I had mowed, only to look ahead and find myself off course. I must admit, the first few rows I cut were nowhere close to being straight. I had broken the first rule of proper lawn care: Never look back! Always look ahead!

So it is with the child of God as they cut their course through life. Looking back to that which we've left (namely, the world) can result in destruction. Remember Lot's wife (cf. **Genesis 19:1ff**) It's imperative that we rid ourselves of that which would beset us and remain focused on the One who has gone before us (**Hebrews 12:1-2; Colossians 3:2**). Paul summed it up this way: *“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:13-14).*

If we're to be found fit for the kingdom, we must proceed ahead, never looking back!

Terry R. Townsend

CHRISTIAN FRIENDS – ONE OF EARTH’S GREATEST BONDS

One of the most important decisions that we have to make in life is the friends that we choose. The Bible makes it very clear that the people we choose to associate with can either help us spiritually or take us down a pathway that leads to eternal destruction. Passages such as these are good ones to remember:

Proverbs 13:20 – *“He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed.”*

I Corinthians 15:33 – *“Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits.”*

II Corinthians 6:14-15 – *“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever.”*

Read the story sometime of a man named Amnon in **II Samuel 13**. He was ruined because of a friendship that he had with Jonadab. In the story, Amnon had a lovely half-sister named Tamar. Amnon has deep desires for her, but has never acted on these desires. **II Samuel 13:2** says, *“It was improper for Amnon to do anything to her.”* Amnon knows it’s wrong, but he has this friend named Jonadab. **Verse 3** says, *“Now Jonadab was a very crafty man.”* Jonadab was not a good friend; he actually was a very bad influence. Jonadab is crafty. He advises Amnon to fake an illness, have Tamar come into the room to take care of him, and then have his way with her (**Vs. 5-11**).

Amnon listened to his so-called friend. Because he listened to Jonadab:

1. Amnon bought shame on himself & his half-sister (**vs. 12-18**).
2. He hurt Tamar, especially emotionally (**vs. 14, 19**).
3. He hurt his family: it made his father David very angry (**vs. 21**).
4. His brother, Absalom, hated him and had him murdered (**vs. 22, 28-29**).

One of the interesting parts of this story is that for 2 years Jonadab knew that Absalom plotted to kill Amnon (**vs. 32-33**). If he was such a good friend, then why didn’t he warn his friend of the coming revenge? Many people in this world do not have your best interests in mind. That’s why you have to be very wise in the friends you choose. Pick one that you can trust, pick one that will love you for who you are, who will rejoice with you and weep with you. Pick one that has your best interests in mind. A true friend loves at all times (**Proverbs 17:17**). There are those who even stick closer than a brother (**Proverbs 18:24**). Generally, these kinds of friends can be found amongst your brothers and sisters in Christ!

By Danny Rogers