



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

November 15, 2015

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

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

Monday

Ladies class 10:00 a.m.

Email:

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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

A ROUGH ROW TO HOE

The Christian life has been described as “headed into a storm, in a storm, or coming out of a storm.” The question for the believer is not if trials will come, but what to do when they do come. The apostle Paul said that “*We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God*” in **Acts 14:22**. Paraphrased into today’s language, Jesus might say we have a “rough row to hoe” before we enter God’s presence.

Accepting the blunt reality of trial and hardship is the first step to dealing with adversity. The Christian is no more immune to cancer or hurricanes than the non-Christian. The ruin of the fall and the entrance of sin into the universe adversely affect both man and creation (**Romans 8:22** – “*We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time*”).

We must realize that the primary purpose of adversity is to expose our weakness and drive us to fresh trust and dependence on Jesus Christ. Jesus wants us to trust Him with each burden, each problem, each setback (**I Peter 5:7** – “*Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you*”).

God knows that as we trust Him as our faith is tested, we will discover His strength – we will grow stronger. In our weakness, we can discover His strength. The winds of financial misfortune, illness, divorce, or death may be too much for us to handle, but nothing is too complicated or burdensome for God!

James 1:2-4: “*Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.*”

Via Hickory Ridge church of Christ, Hickey Ridge, AR

AM I YOUR ENEMY...?

(Galatians 4:16)

...if I encourage you (as a young adult) to work through emotions and look realistically (as much as possible) upon the person you are about to marry?

...if I note your sincerity and effort in serving Christ and compliment you at every chance I get?

...if I take note of your hesitancy and embarrassment in answering Bible questions and I try to help you to learn more?

...if I see talent within you as a teacher of children or adults, and I encourage you to develop your skills and “launch out” in faith and begin teaching?

...if I see the interaction between you and your mate, noting anger and emotional distance, and I try to encourage either or both of you to practice love toward each other?

...if I hear someone else compliment you and pass that information on to you, in an effort to encourage and strengthen you?

...if I notice that you are not attending and participating in the worship of the church on a regular basis, and I mention it to you in a kind and caring manner?

...if I call you and invite you to go with me to a friend’s house with the intention of trying to study the Bible with them and encourage them to become a Christian?

...if I see you and your family attending and participating in worship that is not in harmony with the pattern revealed in the New Testament, and I object?

...if I see your good work habits in the workforce, compliment you and even recommend you for a better job?

...if I notice your short temper and sharp tongue in your interactions with me as well as with others, and I try to help you change?

Look closely at the above questions, and you will notice that there is a pattern to them. The list of questions contains both “positive” and “negative” statements. Each one involves a real possibility. Yet, the negative ones are far more likely to be taken as “judgmental” statements. Why? Have I told you a falsehood? Do I mean to harm you? By no means! Truth cuts both ways. We should make every effort to be honest and kind in all our evaluations of others. But remembering that someone is not sinning by warning, correcting, or cautioning someone else. They are really showing love.

Lance Cordle