



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

November 17, 2019

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
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

THE VALUE OF HELPING OTHERS

Jesus taught us that our relationship with others was the essence of following Him. Not only our relationship with others but also helping those who are in need. Look at His teachings in The Sermon on the Mount in dealing with our relationship with others.

Be merciful to others (Matthew 5:7).

Be peacemakers (Matthew 5:9).

Be reconciled with your brother (Matthew 5:23-24).

Do not do things to be seen of men (Matthew 6:1-3).

Watch your judging (Matthew 7:1-5).

Do to others as you would have them do to you (Matthew 7:12).

In the parable of The Good Samaritan in **Luke 10** Jesus also gives us a great lesson on who our brother is. Brother Harmon Black, a gospel preacher in Michigan, now deceased, penned the following:

A stranger was beaten and robbed one day

And left to die at the side of the way.

A Priest and a Levite ignored his need.

They hurried right by and left him to bleed.

He would have perished except for the fact

That a kindly soul got into the act.

The Good Samaritan showed his concern,

Doing the job...asking naught in return.

He was a "good neighbor" our Lord declared

A worthy example of one who "cared."

So the best way to serve God here on Earth

Is to show compassion for all we're worth.

The Apostle Paul echoed in his writings the words of our Lord when he wrote, "*And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you*" (**Ephesians 4:32**). Also, Paul wrote that as we have opportunity we are to do good unto all men. (**Galatians 6:10**).

Larry Acuff

Satan and Weeds

There are weeds dying at my house (in fact, many are already dead). I know because I had a big part in killing them. As I was in the process of spraying them with a certain herbicide, an interesting analogy came to mind—I was actually playing Satan. Notice these salient points:

Someone once noted that a weed is simply a plant that is out of place. That leads me into my first point—I only picked the plants that were out of place. The ones that were where they were supposed to be, I left alone. Satan is the same way. He notices those who have veered off the “strait and narrow” and picks on them (sometimes he even lures them off of the path that leads to righteousness – **(read Jas. 1:14 and 1 Pet. 5:8)**).

Another thing to mention concerning the weeds and myself is that I deceived them. I sprayed them with mostly water. They thirstily drank it in and, if they could have spoken to me, probably would have thanked me for the refreshing liquid. But my intent was not to refresh them but to destroy them. Satan does no less—he wraps up sin in a pretty package. But he is a liar—a deceiver **(read Rev. 12:9 and Rev. 20:2-3)**.

The reason that I watered those weeds was to destroy them. You see, there was poison in the water (the herbicide). My whole purpose in spraying the weeds was to contaminate and kill them. Unbeknownst to the plants, as they drank in the water, they also ingested the poison. Satan works much in the same fashion. As we take in the pleasures of sin, Satan is secretly poisoning our lives **(read Rom. 7:11 and Eph. 4:22)**.

Something else to note is (because of the type of chemical I was using) it took the plants a while to die. For a few days, they went about their normal lives, but then all of a sudden, they started dying, and by then it was too late. That is Satan’s greatest hope for us—that we continue in sin oblivious to the consequences. Then all of the sudden, by the time we realize how great of sin we are in, it may be too late **(read Heb. 3:13 and 1 Tim. 4:1-2)**.

Finally, I would like to make the point that most of these weeds were good plants. A lot of it was grass that would have looked beautiful in my yard. Their mistake was that they put themselves in a vulnerable position by growing where I didn’t want them. They were not being useful where they were, so I got rid of them. Satan can’t wait for us to get a little out of line so that he can poison us. Why would we ever desire to place ourselves in such peril? **(1 Tim. 6:11 and Jas. 4:7)**.

So, look out for Satan, he is trying to “round up” as many as he can so that he can destroy them. Don’t be a weed, be a productive plant for God **(read Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43; 15:13; John 15:1-6; Gal. 5:22-23)**.

Edd Sterchi