



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

November 18, 2018

P.O. Box 416
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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
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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CHOOSE A CHAIR

The world famous tenor, Luciano Pavarotti, related a story about his upbringing and success. “When I was a boy, my father, a baker, introduced me to the wonders of song. He urged me to work very hard to develop my voice. Arrigo Pola, a professional tenor in my hometown of Modena, Italy, took me as a pupil. I enrolled in a teachers college. On graduating, I asked my father, ‘Shall I be a teacher or a singer?’ ‘Luciano,’ my father replied, ‘if you try to sit on two chairs, you will fall between them. For life, you must choose one chair,’ I chose one. It took seven years of study and frustration before I made my first professional appearance. It took another seven to reach the Metropolitan Opera. And now I think whether it’s laying bricks, writing a book, or whatever we choose, we should give ourselves to it. Commitment, that’s the key. Choose one chair.”

This great advice applies to many aspects of life and most important of all, to Christianity. As Christ plainly spelled it out, “*No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon*” (**Matthew 6:24**). We cannot be servants of sin and of righteousness simultaneously (**Romans 6:19-20**), nor can we be conformed to the world and to God at the same time (**Romans 12:1-2**).

As Joshua stated so boldly, we need to “*choose whom we will serve.*” We need to choose which chair we are going to sit in. We can sit in the chair of Christianity or some other chair. Hopefully we will sit in the same chair as Joshua did and echo his powerful statement, “*As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord*” (**Joshua 24:15**).

Brett Petrillo

AFTER THANKSGIVING SALE!

Many phrases inspire quick responsive behavior on the part of others. “Fire! Run! Help! Dinner! Free Television! Incoming! Snake!” Right alongside these declarations “After Thanksgiving Sale!” must reside. Each year, prior to Thanksgiving the advertisements come pouring out. Shopping men and women dutifully take note, writing down all the particulars or saving the printed ads. Many literally write down a schedule of where they need to be minute by minute and what they specifically need to obtain in each location of every store. They know the prices, shapes, sizes, and colors of their objectives. Their priorities are established. It is not unusual to see long lines of people waiting early in the morning hours before stores open whether it is cold, dark, or rainy. Not only do these folks come early, they stay late! Busy throughout the day, they are driven like no other time in their life.

Let us consider another moment – Sunday morning. Sunday morning is a time when the Church gathers as was the example in the early Church (**Acts 20:7**). At that time, they sang hymns to God (**Ephesians 5:19**) and partook of communion as Jesus had commanded them to remember Him (**I Corinthians 11:23-26**). The Christians encouraged one another by gathering at these assemblies (**Hebrews 10:25**) as they also gave cheerfully a collection to further the Word of God and aid needy saints (**I Corinthians 16:2**). In the midst of this gathering, Christians also received the Word of God which was able to save their souls (**James 1:21**). Sunday morning truly offers great treasure! Praising God, glorifying God in obedience, remembering the Savior of mankind, aiding others and enjoying their fellowship, and partaking of spiritual nourishment to make one complete (**II Timothy 3:16-17**). My daughter used to wake up as a little girl and declare, “It’s day!” She woke prepared to get going with the day. How energized do you feel when you hear the phrase “It’s Sunday!?”

“It’s Sunday!” or “After Thanksgiving Sale!” which phrase brings more organization, excitement, and involvement to the Christian? Do they plan ahead their interaction on Sunday? Do they have their Bibles, notepads, and pens prepared? Are their lessons done ahead of time? Is their frame of mind prepared to glorify God or be a spectator? Do they engage in the singing with voices bright and reverence and cheer on their faces? When the congregation is viewed, does it appear everyone is at nap time, a funeral, bored out of their mind, disinterested? Does the Christian come early to be with his spiritual brothers and sisters? Does he stay late or find opportunity throughout the day to engage in the work of God rain or shine?

Dear friends where is your heart? Are you excited day by day as the coming of Jesus grows nearer (**I Peter 1:13**)? Is this what drives your behavior above all other aspects of your life? There are many phrases which may ignite your behavior such as “After Thanksgiving Sale, Free Summer Sausage, and 75% off,” but may “it’s Sunday, let us pray, and study with me” be among the phrases that ignite your heart, soul, strength, and mind above all things.

“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD” (Psalm 122:1).

Travis Main