



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

November 22, 2020

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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
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 pm

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Blessings We Always Have

As my youngest daughter (who is 4 years old) prays, she inevitably expresses thanks to God for the blessings that He provides. However, when she states it, there is a truth that she adds in which many of us adults forget. She prays, "Thank you for the blessings that we always have." It is true isn't it? God "*daily beareth our burden*" (**Psa. 68:19**) and faithful men "*abound with blessings*" (**Pro. 28:20**).

Even the unrighteous are blessed through God's faithfulness in creation (**Matt. 5:45; Acts 14:17**). The physical blessings that every man enjoys come from God: "*every good gift and every perfect gift is from above*" (**James 1:17**). God wants us to be happy and satisfied so that we can see and access the greater blessings (that have always been in His mind) in the spiritual realm. To "always have" those blessings we must choose to be in Christ's church and keep ourselves in the love of God (**Matt. 16:18; Jude 21**). To be "in Christ" one must have the faith that leads them to repent and confess Christ and be baptized "into" Him (**John 3:36; Luke 13:3; Acts 8:37; Gal. 3:27**). God had a plan before the world began for mankind to receive the ultimate blessings of mercy, grace, redemption, and eternal life in His Kingdom through obedience to His only begotten Son (**2 Tim. 1:9; Titus 1:2**).

Think about it: Christ was "*slain from the foundation of the world*" so we could always have blessings (**Rev. 13:8**). God chose that the faithful in Christ would always have blessings "*before the foundation of the world*" (**Eph. 1:4**). At the end of time, the Lord and King will allow the righteous to always have blessings in the "*kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world*" (**Matt. 25:34**).

Let us be thankful for the "blessings we always have!"

Derrick Coble

We Become What We Worship

Have you ever noticed the affect culture and trends have on our lives? Think about it. Doesn't almost every person you know own an iPhone or smart phone of some sort? Things like movies, sports, clothing, and music have great influence over people. But do you ever wonder why we're so heavily influenced by the culture around us? Well, it's simple—whatever you're consumed with, you're going to reflect in your life. In other words, we become what we worship.

If you look up synonyms for worship in your thesaurus, you come across words like revere, adoration and idolize. I want to spend a little time focusing on that last word idolize. When God gave the children of Israel the Ten Commandments, He started out the list by saying: *“You must not have any other god but me. You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods.”*

The fact is, in this day and age, everything around you is constantly clamoring for your undivided attention. The world is begging for your adoration. It's harder than ever to focus with all the distractions offered every moment of every day. But all those distractions are rooted in idolatry and self when they get you to take your eyes off of your heavenly Father and His great plan for your life.

Ask yourself these questions: “How much time do I spend flipping through magazines or googling the latest celebrity gossip? How important is it that I fit in, look the part or am successful? Do I measure my success based on the opinions of other people?” Now ask yourself this: “How much time do I spend reading the Word of God and allowing Him to speak to me? Do I respond to the things around me by first seeking God's wisdom?” Our aim should be to approach earthly things with a heavenly mindset. But as we all know, this can be very difficult.

So how do we guard ourselves from creating idols? I think **Matthew 6:33** (NKJV) says it best: *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”* So, before anything else, seek first the Lord!

Michael Meredith