



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

November 29, 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

WHY DID JESUS SUFFER THE CROSS?

Jesus indicated that He didn't have to suffer the cross by affirming, *"Therefore doth My Father love Me, because I lay down My life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of My Father"* (**John 10:17-18**). Jesus didn't call 12 legions of angels (**Matthew 26:53**), but suffered the cross. Why? Jesus suffered the cross...

FOR THE FATHER. *"And He went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. And He said, Abba Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from Me nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt"* (**Mark 14:35-36**).

BECAUSE OF THE DEVIL. *"And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this thing, thou art cursed above all cattle and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life. And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel"* (**Genesis 3:14-15**).

FOR HIS BRETHREN. *"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became Him, whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many Sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both He that sanctified and they who are sanctified are all one, for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brethren"* (**Hebrews 2:9-11**)

Richard Stevens III

“THE PEOPLE OF THE BOOK”

Muhammad spoke often about Christians in his writings. A special name is reserved for those that carry the name of Christ in the Koran. That special name is “the people of the book.” In fact, there are over ten instances in the Koran where he refers to us in this way. For Muhammad, this term was meant to be an insult to Christians. However, as I consider this title I cannot help but take pride in it. After all, Christians are called to be nothing more than people of the book.

What does it mean to be the people of the book? It was once said that if all the Bibles in the world were destroyed, members of the Lord’s church would easily be able to produce a word for word copy. There is even a joke that centers on a bailiff forgetting to bring his Bible to court during a trial. In the joke, a minister of the church is called to sit beside the witness stand so that the witness could place their hands on the minister as they were sworn in. The idea of course is that the Lord’s church (members and ministers) were people who knew the Word of God. Unfortunately, I am not sure that these two descriptions of Christians hold true today.

Today’s world is filled with distractions. There are hundreds of things that keep us from spending time in the Word of God. Work, television, school, sports, gardens, friends, etc. rob us of time which could be used in Bible study. For this reason, it is vital that Christians MAKE time for the Bible. *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth” (II Timothy 2:15).* Each of us must decide on the best time we have to study the Word of God. It may be that waking up earlier to get your day started with God’s Word fits your schedule best. Perhaps you could take a Bible with you to work and read it during your breaks. Maybe reading just before bed would work best for you. Whatever time you choose, stick with it. It is said that it takes forty days to turn an action into a habit. In just over a month, we could form a habit of daily Bible study that will last us until the end of time. After all, who would ever want to break this habit?

The Koran gets very little right in its dealings with God and His people. However, the title of “the people of the book” stands as a testimony to the importance of God’s Word in the lives of His people. Let us devote some of our time to listening to our creator. For in His wisdom, He handed down a message that makes us His children and His workers. *“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work” (II Timothy 3:16-17).*

Walter Rayburn