



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

November 29, 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:

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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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National Pride

Have you ever wondered why strong nations fall? Think about it: strong nations always have the best armies, most up-to-date weapons, strongest economies, and the best citizens. So why do they fall? And we must admit that they do fall! The British Empire fell. Rome fell. Alexander's Greek kingdom fell. Babylon, Assyria, Egypt, and countless other strong nations have fallen and lie in the dust. Why? The Bible suggests two reasons.

“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall” (Prov. 16:18). We usually think of the individual when reading this verse, but it seems to me that it also applies to national pride as well. It was said, “The sun never sets on the British empire,” but now it is in the dark! Isaiah 14 records a proverb against the king of Babylon who was so full of pride that he thought he was “the Most High.” But Jehovah of hosts “cut off from Babylon both name and remnant” (22). Take warning, brethren, for it has been recently said by those in high places that “America is the only nation on earth that the world cannot do without.”

“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people” (Prov. 14:34). Now you know the second reason strong nations fall. Need I say more?

When politicians and judges make laws that sanction sin, they are acting as if they were God Himself. That pride and the sins which follow it will lead to the destruction and fall of any people.

Alton Norman

What Did Jesus Give Up For Us?

We often talk about what all Jesus gave on our behalf, i.e. He gave His blood (Matt. 26:28; Acts 20:28). And it is right and good to focus on what Jesus gave. But I would like to focus for a few moments on the things Jesus gave up for us. The text in Phil. 2:5-8 gives us four of them to contemplate: “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross” (Phil. 2:5-8).

Jesus gave up heaven’s glory. The Bible gives us glimpses of heaven only in words that we can understand (see Rev. 21:9-22:5). But in reality, it is a place that we cannot even begin to comprehend. It is filled with the glory of God (Acts 7:55). It is a place of great reward (Matt. 5:12). It is a place of blessedness and eternal peace and rest (Rev. 14:13). It is a place with no tears, sorrows, pain, or death (Rev. 21:4). And just think that Jesus gave up on all that (for a while) for us!

Jesus gave up earthly riches. When Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, he offered Him the wealth of the world (Matt. 4:8). Jesus resisted this temptation. Think about it; Jesus could have ruled the physical earth, but He knew that would not have been right (see Matt. 16:26), for it would not have been a part of the Father’s will. He gave up on worldly pleasures and possessions for us!

Jesus gave up His human will. Jesus was made like us, and as such, had free will, wishes, and desires (Heb. 2:17; 4:15). In fact, on that mournful night of His betrayal, He expressed His feelings and wishes to the Father. But He still yielded to the Father’s will (Matt. 26:37-39). Jesus was able to give up on His earthly desires to do the Father’s will on our behalf!

Jesus gave up His life. Jesus willingly bore our sins and laid down His life for us (John 10:17-18; 19:30; 1 Pet. 2:24). He gave up his life so that we could take the gospel and put it in our hearts. He was punished with our punishment. He died our death with us on His mind. He died so that we could live forevermore. He gave up His life for us!

Jesus has given up so much for us! And this should give us great cause to think – what have we given up for Him?

Edd Sterchi