



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

November 2, 2014

P.O. Box 416
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Rockwood, TN 37854
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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 am

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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

OUR GREATEST CONCERN

Paul was a world traveler. He was a terrific pen pal. He was a teacher. Paul practiced the craft of tent making. He enjoyed reading. He had some health problems. He seemed to enjoy athletics. He was a fund raiser for the hungry of Judah. He had a healing ministry. He worked hard, long hours at preaching the Gospel to the Gentiles. Paul was an accomplished debater. He knew a little about politics and sailing. He was so self-disciplined in body and mind that he could claim contentment in persecution and prison. Paul was well educated, easily handling the subject of philosophy, world religions, and poetry.

Here was a man who had a lot of irons in the fire! Yet, Paul claimed only one goal. *"This one thing I do...I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."* **(Philippians 3:13-14)**. Paul's greatest concern was the saving of his soul. He just wanted to go to heaven! We can see how all of his work and hobbies were directed to apprehending that one great hope.

I know work demands a lot of us these days. It's important to have an enjoyable and relaxing hobby. Organized recreation programs are good for us and our children and involve some obligation. There are more places to go than ever before. We all have a lot of irons in the fire. Yet, commitment to the one hope of heaven must be supreme. Other things or activities should help us apprehend, not steal us from, the fellowship of God.

If you can do only one thing, make that "one thing" you do is to worship and serve the one Lord.

Cecil May III

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

If you were given the choice of being with Jesus throughout eternity or being with the devil, which would you choose? Do the above questions seem simple enough? While the answer may seem quite obvious, I am not so sure that people really mean what they say. For instance, what would you do if you had the opportunity to worship with your brethren on a Wednesday night or go to a ball game? What would you do if you had the opportunity to worship Sunday evening or stay at home and visit with some relatives or old friends? What would you do if you had time one evening to study your Bible or watch the evening news? What would you do if you had the opportunity to help a family in need or to buy something you had been wanting?

Do you see the point I am trying to make? It is very easy to say that we want to go to Heaven and be with Jesus, but the very things that enable us to get there are choices we do not make in life. Our eternal destiny, whether it be Heaven or Hell, will not be decided by a “once-and-for-all decision” made at the judgment seat of Christ. That choice is made day by day through the decisions we make on a much smaller level.

The conduct and attitude of some brethren cause me to remember a biblical character from the book of Numbers. Balaam, a prophet of God, wanted to have the “best of both worlds.” If you will notice from **II Peter 2:15-16** and **Jude 11**, Balaam was condemned as an unrighteous man. However, notice the words of one of Balaam’s prayers before his death, “*Let me die the death of the righteous and let my end be like his*” (**Numbers 23:10**).

Balaam stated that he wanted to go to Heaven, but the choices he made in life proved otherwise. Is it possible that we may be like Balaam in this regard? Are we willing to choose eternal life but unwilling to do the things that will give us that life? Think about it.

“They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; but he was rebuked for his iniquity, a dumb donkey speaking with a man’s voice restrained the madness of the prophet” (**II Peter 2:15-16**).

If you were given the choice of spending eternity in Heaven or Hell, which would you choose?

By Steve Higginbotham