



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

November 6, 2016

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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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“NEITHER IN THE PAST NOR SINCE”

Poor Moses! He was on the spot. God was calling him to do something he didn't really feel qualified to do. I can see him squirming as he said, *“O Lord, I have never been eloquent neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue” (Exodus 4:10)*. In essence, “I'm not the man you want.”

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, God could have given Moses an eloquent tongue and answered Moses' excuses, but He didn't! Instead, God sent Moses back to Egypt with his weakness.

The apostle Paul felt there was a limitation in his life, and asked God to remove it. As strange as it might seem, God told the apostle Paul, *“My power is made perfect in weakness.”* Upon hearing that the apostle responded, *“I will all the more gladly boast of my weakness, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities; for when I am weak, then I am strong” (II Corinthians 12:9-10)*. If Paul could have pointed to his remarkable physical resources, the power of God in his life would not be obvious.

It may be that I share something with Moses. A clear Christian duty is set before me, but I feel that if God really expects me to do it, He would grant me special abilities, but He doesn't. I am still me. God does not need to overcome my inadequacies before He can use me. The truth is God's power is manifested in weakness!

To be full of self-confidence is to be empty of the power of God. To quote the apostle Paul again, *“But have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God not to us” (II Corinthians 4:7)*.

John Gipson

BLESSED INSURANCE ASSURANCE

When our family van was recently totaled it was a great relief to have insurance. Theoretically, insurance guarantees financial protection from possible loss or harm in exchange for a premium. It is great to know that should an emergency arise, we are protected from loss that could be difficult to handle. Insurance is now offered for nearly every aspect of our lives and possessions. For our spiritual lives, however, no insurance is offered. Instead, God offers us something much greater, assurance. In the insurance world, assurance is coverage for an event that will happen at some point in your life. Biblically speaking though, assurance comes from God's promises to help and reward us.

We have assurance that God cares and provides for us. In **Matthew 6:25-34**, Jesus tells us we do not have to worry about what we are going to eat or wear. God knows what we need and provides for those who obey His will. This assurance frees us to pursue His kingdom and His righteousness above our physical needs. We have the assurance that God hears us. **I John 5:14-15** tells us: *"if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."* God is listening and answering prayers. Jesus also gives us the assurance God answers prayers and wants good things for us (**Matthew 7:7-11**).

We have the assurance we will be able to handle what life throws at us. We are told that what we face in life is only that which is common to man (**I Corinthians 10:13**). We may think we are going through something no one else has, but it is not the case. There is always someone else who has shared your struggles and overcome. Thus, you can too. This verse also assures us *"God will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we are able to bear."* Whatever we face in life we will be able to endure and overcome.

We have the assurance we can draw near to God's throne. To think about coming before the throne of God on Judgment Day fills many with fear. We know we are imperfect and weak. Jesus, however, as our High Priest gave us the assurance that we can approach God's throne despite our flaws and find mercy through His blood (**Hebrews 4:14-16; 10:19-22**). We have the assurance that those who are abiding in Christ and His love will not have to shrink away from Him in shame at His coming (**I John 2:28; 4:16-17**). We can have the assurance of eternal life with God (**I John 5:13**) so we can live free from shame and uncertainty.

The assurance of God can give us great confidence and security in life beyond the capability of an insurance policy. In **Hebrews 10:35-36**, we are reminded not to throw this confidence away, it has a great reward. Instead, we need to endure. God's assurance policy will change our lives and our afterlives for the best possible outcome, if only we will turn and do His will (**Matthew 7:21-23**). Best of all, with God's assurance the premiums have already been paid (**I Peter 1:18-19**) and the paperwork is already completed.

By Jeremy Sprouse