



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

November 8, 2015

P.O. Box 416
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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 10:00 a.m.

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THE CORINTHIAN ERROR

The Corinthian church was slipping away from the pattern that their Master set for them to follow. The way they were observing the Lord's Supper was one of the main problems in this area as it was being eaten with a common meal. The Corinthian brethren had totally lost the significance of the Lord's Supper. Paul promptly reprimanded them for this and asked the question, "What, do you not have houses to eat and drink in?"

The Passover was hardly a common meal. It was an Old Testament memorial where the people allowed their minds to go back to the time of the killing of the lamb without blemish and placing its blood on the two side posts and lintels of the houses to let the angel of the Lord know to pass over their houses so the life of the first born would be spared.

This was a perfect time to establish the New Testament memorial. While the disciples were still eating the Passover, Jesus chose this time to inaugurate the Lord's Supper. It was composed of the bread which He broke among them and told them to eat in memory of His body given for them; and the fruit of the vine He divided among them and told them to drink it in memory of His shed blood (**Matthew 26:26-27**).

The Corinthians were clearly doing more than just eating some bread and drinking some fruit of the vine. They had turned the Lord's Supper into a common meal, and Paul rebukes them for it. The Lord's Supper is a memorial, not a meal. It's about remembering the Lord. It is not about having a common meal which should be eaten at home.

What would be Paul's major point if he wrote a letter to our congregation today?

William C. Pulley

SEASONS

It's fall again and a time when we expect to see brilliant colors in God's nature.

Alice and I have always loved making fall excursions just to see the colors as the foliage turns. This year has not been so good for that as we have now made four trips out in search of color and there isn't a whole lot this year. We made a short trip Thursday and many of the trees are already naked or are in the process of becoming so. The colors of fall are not nearly so good as is normal for our area. We understand that much of that is due to the hot, dry summer we had.

As we've gone on our trips, we realize that all things are under God's control. Everything was created by and for God as we read in **Colossians 1:16** "*By Him were all things created that are in heaven and in the earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, dominions, principalities or powers: all things were created by Him and for Him.*" God is the Master of the universe and He is in control! It is He who determines how and when the seasons change. In considering seasonal changes, I thought about how the "seasons" of our lives change. Let's examine that thought a little further.

All of us enjoy tiny babies. After all, their arrival has been anticipated for most of a year! When we hold a baby in our arms, we realize that there can be nothing sweeter or purer for those tiny ones are untouched by sin. When a little baby smiles, it's like a ray of sunshine on a rainy day. We can't help but respond to the innocence and sweetness that we see. But those little ones turn into toddlers and the trouble begins! They must learn that "you can't touch that; don't go there; don't say that, etc. etc." The fences start closing in on them as they learn the "do's and don'ts" and they realize that their little hands or other places may be smacked when they disobey.

Then comes the time when the little ones start learning about the demands that society places on them. First, they are familiar with family and friends and then with those they don't even know and they must begin to mature as they age physically. Perhaps the teen-age years are the most difficult of the maturing process. Finally, a person reaches maturity and is full grown.

In the same way, Christians must grow and mature! Paul spoke of this in **Romans 6:4** "*We are buried with Him by baptism into death that, like as Christ was raised up from the dead...even so we also should walk in newness of life.*" Peter also spoke of this infancy in **I Peter 2:2** "*as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word that you may grow thereby.*" These men of God cause us to realize that, when one first obeys the gospel, he/she is like a baby. Their sins have been washed away and they stand pure and innocent before God.

Then comes the phase of knowing what one can/can't do and be pleasing to God. Again, Peter helps us by saying that we are to "*grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord*" **II Peter 3:18**. In order to continue to mature as a Christian, one must study, know and do the things that bring God's favor. The promise is "*Let us not be weary in well doing for, in due season, we shall reap if we faint not*" (**Galatians 6:9**). As the faithful continue to mature, God is with them. Those who are maturing in His service must determine who they are trying to please. Listen as Paul says "*Do I seek to please men? If I yet please men, I would not be the servant of Jesus Christ*" (**Galatians 1:10**). To complete the Christian's maturing process, Paul said that one must "*grow up into Him in all things*" (**Ephesians 4:15**). Just as our physical and mental selves will never cease to learn and grow, God's faithful followers will never stop learning and growing throughout the seasons of their lives!

Royce Pendergrass