



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

October 11, 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.

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FOR WHAT ARE YOU KNOWN?

At age 14 he ran away from home and fought in the French and Indian War. At the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, he joined the American army as a colonel and in 1775 shared a command with Ethan Allen in the capture of Ticonderoga. Later he led 1000 men into Canada when he fought in the battle of Quebec. On this excursion he led his men through 350 miles of rain, snow and ice, reduced to eating candles, dogs, and shoe leather. He would also take a musket ball to the leg in this battle. Thomas Jefferson praised him before the Continental Congress. At the battle of Saratoga he received a near fatal wound that would leave him with a limp. His courage in battle won him a promotion to brigadier general. But something went wrong. Thoughts of compromise ate away at his patriotic zeal. Soon the unthinkable happened. He offered his services to the British, and in 1780 devised a plan to surrender West Point to British control. Today, instead of being remembered as a national hero, Benedict Arnold is synonymous with "traitor."

In the Bible we also have men whose names have become synonymous with certain actions. Judas is known as a traitor. John is known as the apostle of love. John along with James was also given the names "Sons of Thunder" (**Mark 3:17**). The apostle Paul's traveling companion Joses was given the name Barnabas which means "Son of Encouragement" (**Acts 4:36**). In fact, most every name in the Bible has some specific significance. However, the men listed are some of the more familiar.

Some may think that it does not matter what people think of us, but that is not true according to the Bible. The New Testament calls us to be people who have a good reputation. Jesus told us that His people should be a light before men that when our good works are seen the Father in heaven will be glorified (**Matthew 5:16**). Peter gave similar instructions in **I Peter 2:12**. And in Paul's list of qualifications for overseers, he said that they should be one who has a good testimony among those who are outside (**I Timothy 3:7**).

If you were to be given a name that represented your relationship with God and the church, what would that name be? Would it be that you are faithful, someone who can be counted on, always willing to step up to do what ever needs doing? Or would it say that you are hardly ever at services, you are unreliable; don't ask me to do anything? Would it be a name that you could be proud to wear, or would it be a name that brought shame? If you are reading this article it is not too late for you to change your reputation. With a little work you can be known as a person who loves God. We could be known as someone who talks about Jesus to everyone you come into contact with, or someone who does good for those who are in need. At the very least we can be known as someone who wore the name "Christian" well.

Doug Tooley, revised

HEAVENLY SUNLIGHT

“The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up” (Matthew 4:16).

The world can be a dark place. *“The whole world,”* John wrote, *“lieth in wickedness” (I John 5:19).* Satan, the *“prince of this world” (John 14:30),* makes sure of that. The Bible does not water down the evil that is in the world, and neither should we. Paul said men will be *“lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God, having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof” (II Timothy 3:1-5).* We live in a sin-crazed world. Solomon said, *“The heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live” (Ecclesiastes 9:3).* The portrait of the tendencies of man in the Bible is ugly and it is true.

Many sit in darkness. They live in the shadow of death, trying to survive from one day to the next and hoping to enjoy as much as they can before they die. They live in ignorance, not knowing how they should think, feel, or act. They try to laugh and be happy but the fear of death and the pains of their conscience always come back to haunt them. They buy new things and reach their goals but end up feeling empty inside. They look for fulfillment in relationships with others but find disappointment. Like men groping in darkness, people desperately look for meaning and direction to their lives and find none.

What a sad condition! Such was the state of the world when Jesus came. Even Capernaum, a city exalted to the heavens for its religious heritage (Matthew 11:23), was full of pride and hypocrisy. When Jesus came to their city, He was a great light in a dark world.

Everywhere we turn there is great darkness. People are walking in the shadow of death and seem oblivious. The only hope for such a dark place is the light of the Son of God made known through His Word and His people. Jesus is *“the light of the world” (John 8:12).* He gave us *“the light of the glorious gospel” (II Corinthians 4:5).* The more we are like Him the more we *“shine as lights in the world” (Philippians 2:15).* In fact, the darker the world is the more Christian lights will stand out in contrast. One artist was called “the painter of lights” because he used small bright images on a dark background. Rather than feeling helpless in a dark world, we should see it as an opportunity to shine the light.

Kerry Duke