



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

October 12, 2014

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
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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HEALTHY LIVING

It seems increasingly difficult to know what is and what is not good for us. When blood cholesterol levels were first identified, we were told that butter was bad for us. Now we are told that butter is better for us than margarine (trans-fatty acids, you see). Eggs were bad, now they are good “nature’s perfect food,” some say). This preacher wonders: Will worrying about our health (what we eat, etc.) possibly lead to high blood pressure?

John suggested a better approach to life. His prayer for Gaius was, “*Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth*” (**III John 2**). Paul had virtually the same idea in mind when he wrote, “*For bodily exercise profiteth little; but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come*” (**I Timothy 4:8**).

The word translated “prosper/prospereth” (**III John 2**) literally means, “to help on the road.” The word translated “profitable” (**I Timothy 4:8**) means, “helpful, advantageous.” Our soul prospering is surely parallel to exercising ourselves unto godliness. Both inspired writers are telling us that maintaining good spiritual health must take priority over concerns for our physical well-being.

Yes, when we present our bodies as living sacrifices unto God (**Romans 12:1-2**), we will practice good stewardship of our bodies (**I Corinthians 4:2**). However, when our soul’s prosperity is our priority, we will view good health as an added benefit. Also, godly living will help us avoid some self-inflicted problems here. AND prepare us for eternity. That is a better “health plan.”

J. Brooks Boyd, Jr.

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A RESPONSIBLE ONE

When talking about responsibility we are not necessarily talking about authority and being subject to it. When talking about authority there is a necessity to talk about those who defy it. The Christian has a duty to be submissive to constituted authority.

CIVIL RESPONSIBILITY. The powers are ordained, not the rulers (**Romans 13:1**). God doesn't ordain the rulers, He does the power. Defying of governmental powers reflects the attitude of the individual. The form of government does not affect the duty of obedience. Monarchies, republics have in them alike the ordination and power of God for the welfare of society. There are, however, limits to this obedience (**Acts 5:29**). This text indicates we ought to obey God rather than man. When man wants me to do something that is a violation of the will of God I have no choice but to obey God. Words of this text imply that the duty was already known. What about speed limits? What about if we don't like the law or if they are antique and outdated?

RESPONSIBILITY TO SELF. Who is the authority in our life (**Romans 6:16**). Christianity covers all spheres of our lives; civil, social, moral, and spiritual. There are rebels who abuse themselves and dress in unusual ways. They are trying to be different by going against the grain, doing their own thing. Many today are trying to get Christians to conform to the world. We must be transformed (**Romans 12:2**). We can only do this through diligent Bible study and prayer. We must be convinced that "*greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world.*"

RESPONSIBILITY TO GOD. Be careful to maintain good works...works that have the right motives and are for the right reasons...works that have a right standard. A man can have a right motive but his works be bad...lottery money to help the church...raffle to benefit good. Our works should present the right influence (**Romans 14:7**).

RESPONSIBILITY TO STAND AGAINST ERROR: Christians have a responsibility to stand up to error. Elders likewise have the same responsibility. First error must be identified. Jesus said, "*You shall know them, by their fruits*" (**Matthew 7:15**). What a person says and does reflects whether or not there is error present. The Bible uses the word "heretic" to describe a false teacher. All heretics can be divided into three classes. *The theoretical believer* – do not believe what others believe to be true and maintain. *The professional believer* – declares his faith every Sunday then denies them in his life. *The practical disbeliever* – is those who are insincere. They do not act according to their own convictions. In a society where responsibility is terribly lacking, Christians should lead the way by taking responsibility for all their actions.

Jeff Stone