



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

October 16, 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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TIME WELL SPENT

Most if not all of us are familiar with financial budgets. In them, you make a list of all your available resources each month and a list of all your expenditures for each month. The goal is to arrive at a place where your income is higher than your outgo. To do this requires planning and self-control as you attempt to stick to your budget.

Today, I want us to try something a little different. Let's make a budget of our time. Start with a weeks' worth of hours. Before you grab your calculators, that would be 168 hours that you have as an available resource. Now that you know what your assets are, you can begin adding up your time consumption. For instance, how many hours a week do you sleep? How many hours do you work in a week? How much time do you spend driving in your car? How much time do you spend watching television? How often do you participate in various hobbies or side jobs? All of these plus many more activities will greatly cut into your reserve of hours each week. Go ahead and make your list...

Now I want you to consider how much of your time God has control of. How many hours were you able to put as time spent in study, prayer, worship, good deeds, etc.? Does God have a place in your life? As you budgeted and planned out your most precious commodity, did you give God His fair share? For many of us, I am afraid the answer is no. We simply find ourselves too busy or distracted to fit God in.

This is the day to change that. Like any budget, making changes to how we spend our time may be difficult, but it will pay off in eternal rewards for God's People.

Walter Rayburn

Let's take this article to heart; make plans to be at every service of our Gospel Meeting that begins today and goes thru Thursday evening!!!

INVESTMENT

Charles Francis Adams, a 19th century political figure and diplomat, kept a diary. One day he entered: “Went fishing with my son today – a day wasted.” His son, Brook Adams, also kept a diary which is still in existence. On that same day of Brook Adams made this entry: “Went fishing with my father – the most wonderful day of my life!”

It is interesting to note the two different responses to the exact same day. The father thought he had wasted the day while to the son it was an investment of time. It really all comes down to perspective. The only way to really tell a difference between waste and investment is by looking at our priorities and purpose in life.

Many people view time spent at worship as wasted time. Many Christians view time spent at Bible class as time that would be better spent sleeping. Some believe that it is a waste of time and money to help someone in need. Others think that it is a complete waste of time to teach someone the truth. It all comes down to priorities.

Matthew 6:19-21 says, “*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*” We need to realize that there are certain things in life that are investments in our eternity. These things are never wastes of time no matter what they cost...if we are laying up treasures in heaven. We lay up treasures in heaven when we take the time to read and study the Bible with our children. We lay up treasures in heaven when we go out of our way to help someone in need. We lay up treasures in heaven when we stick around to talk to someone about the Bible...even if it is awkward. We lay up treasures in heaven when we go visit the erring member who need some encouragement. We lay up treasures in heaven by making Christ a priority in our life...by putting Him first...by sacrificing now to have treasures in eternity.

Yet so many times in our lives we get distracted by the things that don't really matter that we forget to live for Christ. Our job is important and we must work to provide for our family...but our job is just a means to an end. It is not our final goal. Hobbies are fun and enjoyable...and there is nothing wrong with our hobbies...as long as they don't take us away from other things we need to be doing. School is important and necessary. Students should care about school and strive to do well in school...yet school is never more important than spiritual matters.

Heaven is a long term investment. We must be willing to invest now and realize that the reward will not come immediately. The reward is guaranteed if we are faithful (**Ephesians 1:14; Revelation 2:10**), the reward is eternal (**Romans 2:7**), and the reward is worth more than we could ever afford (**Matthew 13:44**). Yet, if we don't keep our mind under control we will lose that reward (**I Corinthians 9:24-27**). We must make God a priority and realize that time spent serving Him is not time wasted. That time is an investment in our eternity...it is treasures laid up in heaven. We must also realize that some things that we view as so important now will someday be absolutely worthless. Let us not trade our soul for the worthless while we neglect the eternal!

Daniel Dalton