



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

October 18, 2020

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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
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 pm

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Henry Ford and Idle Words

Ever say something you wish you hadn't? Henry Ford did. In a 1916 interview with the *Chicago Tribune*, the American motor vehicle pioneer said, "What do we care about what they did 500 or 1,000 years ago? I don't know whether Napoleon did or did not try to get across and I don't care. It means nothing to me. History is more or less bunk." Though Ford was mostly trying to say that what matters most to him is what he accomplishes in the present, many a media source ran with the thought that Henry Ford says "history is bunk." Ford spent many years trying to put a positive spin on those words, most notably commenting in 1919 that he would build a museum focusing on industrial history.

Controlling the tongue is a difficult task, even for the most inventive and industrious of people. Jesus reminded us all to be careful about speaking without thinking. "*But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment*" (**Matt. 12:36**). Perhaps the best way to avoid idle words is not to speak too quickly. "*So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath*" (**James 1:19**).

Like Henry Ford, we all often regret things we say. Words misspoken can plague us far beyond the time period in which they are uttered. To avoid such troubles, we can hear and put to work the words of Scripture: "*Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles*" (**Proverbs 21:23**). **Matt Clifton**

Thinking About a New Way of Thinking

The past six months have drastically changed our thinking. If you don't think so, go into a public place and start coughing and see the reactions (on second thought, don't do that). There will always be a "BC" (before COVID) means of thinking, and there will now be an "AD" (after distancing) thinking. However, this new way of thinking causes me to think of the parallels between the mindset of a disciple of Jesus. Here are some comparisons to consider:

There is no going back only going forward. It does no good to constantly live in the past. In fact, a person who lives in the past will find their present tainted and their future bleak. The Jewish Christians to whom Hebrews was written badly needed this reminder that what they had before them was far better than what they left behind them (**Heb. 11:37-12:3**).

Old habits are replaced with new habits. Has anyone tried not touching their face so much? Has anyone forgotten to suppress a cough in the hardware store? Old habits die hard. Yet, when we look at the changes that happen when a person becomes a disciple of Jesus, over and over the Bible emphasizes that those old sinful habits must "die" (**Luke 9:23; Rom. 6:1-4; Col. 3:1-10**).

Time is required to process changes. There have been many times throughout the last six months, where I've had to withdraw myself and simply say, "this is got to be different now...and it's going to be different from now on." God doesn't expect that we will know everything when we become Christ's disciple. God doesn't expect that we will be perfect when we become Christ's disciple (if we were, we wouldn't need His blood to cleanse us). However, God does expect continual growth in His way as disciples of Jesus otherwise, we might be operating with an old mindset not a new mindset (**2 Pet. 3:18**).

Keep your eyes focused on the goal. Kevin Hahn gave a great analogy recently: "Corona"-virus means "crown." People are worried about it and you can see it on their faces—the precautions they take, the worry, the changes they've made. They have in their minds a goal not to get it. Disciples of Jesus ought to have it seen in their faces that they are focused on the "crown" of righteousness. We've changed our thinking such that we've set a goal and that we will obtain it no matter what! (**2 Tim. 4:7-8; Jas. 1:12**).

Andy Baker