



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

October 25, 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.

Email:

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A LIVING MARTYR

“Stephen wasn’t a martyr because he died; he died because he was a martyr.”

After reading that sentence, you may be saying, “Steve, I don’t get it. What do you mean?” Well let me see if I can explain.

Did you know that the Greek word translated as “martyr” (Gr. *martureo*) is the same Greek word that is also translated as “witness” and “testimony?”

What does that mean? It means that Jesus sent out His disciples to be (Gr. *martureo*) i.e. “witnesses/testifiers/martyrs” (**Luke 21:13; Acts 1:8**). But how were His disciples supposed to be “witnesses/testifiers/martyrs?” By faithfully recounting the things they saw and heard about Jesus. And as we know, some faithful “witnesses/testifiers/martyrs” were even called upon to forfeit their lives as did Stephen (**Acts 22:20**) and Antipas (**Revelation 2:13**).

You see, Stephen’s death was a result of his decision to be a “witness/testifier/martyr” of Jesus. His death didn’t make him a “witness/testifier/martyr” for Jesus.

Friends, I hope you’re already a “martyr” for Jesus. And if someday being a martyr for Jesus demands we must also die for Him, I pray that we all have the courage and conviction to do so. Give it some thought.

Steve Higginbotham

WHEN THE OCEAN ENTERS THE SHIP

The question was asked, “Exactly why does a hole in the hull of a ship make it sink?” The answer was given:

“Water rushes in through the hole because it is under pressure, depending on how deep below the surface the hole it – the lower the hole, the harder the water rushes in. As the water enters the ship, it replaces an equal volume of air, thereby increasing the ship’s weight and hence its overall density. When enough water has entered to make enough extra weight to overcome the buoyancy force, down she goes.”

Someone once said, “It’s great when the ship is in the ocean, but when the ocean enters the ship – there’s a problem.” How true it is! A nice day or cruise out on the wide-open seas is ruined when the water begins to enter the vessel. Do you think there is a spiritual application to this tragic scene? Let’s find one!

When the waters of doubt enter the Christian vessel – down goes the Christian. When we replace Scripture for skepticism, doubt, and fear, the faith can be shattered under this pressure, and a once saved soul can be lost at Sin’s Sea. Remember that faith, according to God’s Word, is evidence and substance (**Hebrews 11:1**). Now we don’t just sit around and have these elements delivered to us. We have to go and find them. Begin in God’s Word with daily Bible study (**II Timothy 2:15**), and continue with prayer (**I Thessalonians 5:17**), worship (**Hebrews 10:25**), and a constant look at the world in which we live (**Psalms 19:1**). Don’t let doubt sink your ship!

When the waters of anger enter the Christian vessel – down goes the Christian. Always keep in mind that anger is but one letter shy of danger. It’s one thing – albeit not a good thing – but one thing when a worldly person loses his/her temper and lashes out to hurt someone; however, when a child of God does the same, there are far more ramifications. Sin occurs when anger is acted out (**Ephesians 4:26**). When sin occurs, there is the danger of being separated from God (**Isaiah 59:1-2**). When anger enters the Christian vessel, the Christian could easily go down in sin never to “sail” for the Lord again.

Basically when the waters of sin enter the Christian vessel – down goes the Christian. This point was made clear by Paul in his analogy of the leaven being small but powerful in causing the bread to rise. **Galatians 5:9** states that a “*little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.*” It doesn’t take much to get the bread rising. It only takes a little water to cause a ship to begin to sink. It only takes a little sin, undetected and not dealt with, to bring a Christian or church down to the depths of Sins Sea.

Keep your Christian vessel afloat by studying God’s Word so that you can identify “sins that sink.” Prepare your life to deal with “sins that sink,” and make it your duty to rid your life of them; because just as with the ship, it is great to have the ship in the ocean, but never good to have the ocean in the ship.

Kirk Talley (revised)