



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

October 25, 2020

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
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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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Age and Emotion

Growing older brings emotions closer to the surface, for some of us anyway. Using a sentimental illustration in a sermon or singing a song that touches our hearts becomes difficult.

While I do not fear death, I dread the prolonged pain or loss of mental faculties that often precede death. A frequent prayer leader at Memphis' Union Avenue church, when I was a kid, often led us to pray, "And when our time comes to cross the chilly waters of Jordan, give us a peaceful hour in which to cross and a home safe on the other side." I greatly desire that "peaceful hour in which to cross."

A phrase in "Because He Lives," brings the same thought to mind. "And then one day I'll cross that river; I'll fight life's final war with pain; and then as death gives way to vict'ry, I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives."

"O Sacred Head Now Wounded" has, "Lord, let me never, never outlive my love for Thee."

"Listen to Our Hearts," has, "We will use the words we know to tell you what an awesome God you are. But words are not enough to tell you of our love, so listen to our hearts."

An audible sob wells up in my throat as I think those thoughts when I sing those songs. **Cecil May Jr.**

Problem With Demons

In Matthew 8:28-34 Jesus deals with legions of demons. They come running to Him: *“And behold, they cried out, saying, “What do we have to do with You, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?”* (Matthew 8:29). We immediately see that they fully recognized Jesus as God’s Son. They knew His power to send them into torment. They also knew that a time would come when they would be sent into torment. We read in different places that a demon was in a person and did horrible things to the person. In this case many demons were doing terrible things. Such a person was not able to do as he desired, because of the control of the demon. They knew that Jesus had more power than they had, He could send them out, and did for many people. *“You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with Him”* (Acts 10:38).

These demons begged Jesus to send them into a herd of swine. It seems they wanted to go anyplace other than the torments of Hell. Think about this; would there be other demons in Hell? So why would they not want to be with their own kind? We are not told where they went when the swine drowned in the water. The important part is that after the demons were cast out of the man he was in his right mind. He wanted to follow with Jesus, but Jesus told him what he should do. *“And He did not let him, but He said to him, “Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you”* (Mark 5:19).

Going along with Jesus in a physical way is not for us to do; but following Jesus in His work of reaching the lost with His saving Gospel is our task. If you are not living the right way, that is, according to Jesus’ teaching, then you are following another. Are you just following your own thoughts? Will you be able to reach Heaven without Jesus? We should all make sure we are not being controlled by the devil.

Wayne Curry