



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

October 4, 2015

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 10:00 a.m.

Email:

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Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

HAVE I WAITED TOO LONG?

Tuesday morning I went to get the oil changed in my car because it was long past due. So I finally woke up early one morning and drove to Wal-Mart to have them take care of it. As I sat and watched the men prepare to work I noticed one of them shaking their head from left to right. I began to wonder if he was shaking his head because I had waited so long to get my oil changed. To me, it was not that big of a deal. I was just a thousand miles over the suggested mileage for a change. But to him, I'm sure it was a big deal. My last guilty thought was, "I wonder if I have waited too long and done damage to my car."

Isn't that how some of us are tempted to be with the Lord? We have only gone a little over the limit with this sin or that. We have only missed a couple of worship services this month. We have only skipped two or three opportunities to help someone who was hurting. And you know, those things may not seem that bad to us in the moment. You may be saying to yourself, there is no need to make any drastic changes right now, I'm getting by. I have to ask the question, do you just want to "get by" as a Christian?

I can't help but think of Paul and what he said to the Thessalonian Christians in **I Thessalonians 5:2**. He said, "*For you yourselves are **fully aware** that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night*" (**ESV**, emphasis added). The Christians were fully aware that Jesus could return at any moment to judge the world. I want to believe they were people who made changes as soon as they noticed a need.

Look at your life. Are you simply getting by? Have you put off making changes that you know are needed? In view of eternity, put your obedient trust in God and He will love, forgive, and save you in the end. Do not live in fear of the question, "Have I waited too long?"

Austin Johnson

BEAR WITH ONE ANOTHER

In Scripture, the word “bear” means to tolerate one another, to bear with them, to patiently endure their personal tendencies/idiosyncrasies and weaknesses. That is a lot easier to talk about than to practice. I like the old saying that goes like this: “To live above, with saints we love, that will be glory. To live below, with the saints we know, that’s quite a different story!” Here’s a little news flash: sometimes people are difficult to get along with! And sometimes those people that are difficult to get along with are the very people that we sit next to each and every week at church and the people we go home with afterwards.

The truth is that Satan doesn’t want us to get along with each other, neither in the church nor the home. He wants us to become annoyed, upset and out of sync with one another. Healthy relationships require hard work and a lot of grace because those relationships are rather vulnerable and can rupture quite easily. Unless we guard against it, our differences can easily become irritants and our unity can unravel very quickly. So how do we maintain our love and unity in the midst of these realities? We must bear with one another (**Ephesians 4:1-3**).

According to Paul there are 4 aspects involved in bearing with one another. First, bearing with others is part of living a life worthy of our calling (**4:1**). As Christians we have been called to live a life that brings honor and glory to the Lord. Part of that involves extending the same grace and forbearance He has shown to us to one another.

Second, bearing with one another requires patience, humility and gentleness. Humility allows us to see ourselves as we truly are, frankly someone who needs the patience and forbearance of others and gentleness is how we treat others because of it.

Third, bearing with one another requires forgiveness. We will offend others at times and they us, to overcome that requires us to bear with and simply forgive one another as God has forgiven us.

Fourth, we find the ultimate purpose for bearing with one another. It is so that we might maintain the *“unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.”*

Truth be told, there is simply no way to maintain unity in the local body of believers if we can’t learn to be patient and forgiving of one another. The bigger issue is that we simply will not accomplish the work of the Lord together if we can’t first get along together. May God help us to grow in our patience with one another so that our unity might be strong and the Lord’s work accomplished.

Brian Mitchell