



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

October 5, 2014

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 am

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“FOLLOW ME”

The last eleven verses of **John 21** contain an enlightening conversation between Jesus and Peter. It is in this section of Scripture that Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves Him. After Peter's third response to the question, Jesus states: *“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdest thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldst: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldst not.”* This spake He, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He saith unto him, *“Follow me.”*

Peter, somewhat surprised by the implications of Jesus' statement, asked what would happen to the disciple behind him (apparently John). Jesus' reply was very straightforward: *“If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? Follow thou Me.”* Basically Jesus told Peter that his most important concern was to follow. John's fate might be very different from Peter's, but that should not really make any difference to Peter. His main focus should be to follow Jesus regardless of where it would lead and regardless of what happened to other followers.

When the passage was read Sunday morning in the worship assembly, this thought really hit home with me. Some followers of Jesus will have, what may appear to me, relatively easy and trouble-free lives. Others may find life to be filled with difficulties. (It is always easier for me to see my troubles than it is to know what others really face.) Regardless of what life may bring, instead of worrying about how easy someone else has it, my chief responsibility is to follow Jesus. Instead of complaining that someone “got away with” something, I should simply follow Jesus. Instead of lamenting that someone else is more blessed than I have been, I should concentrate on following Jesus. While accepting responsibility for my own relationship with Jesus may be harder than comparing my plight with that of others, it is the way to be blessed.

Patrick Hogan

THE INFALLIBILITY OF THE BIBLE

There have been many attacks on the Bible down through the ages because the Bible condemns too much of what men love to do. Without the Bible one can do virtually anything he wants to do. Man wants to live as he pleases without being accountable to God. Many want to live as though there is no God. **Psalms 14:1** says, *“The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’”*

With many people, materialism and humanism have replaced God resulting in unbelief in the Bible. Today unbelief in the Bible is often seen as a badge of courage to be displayed openly and worn proudly. Satan plants seeds of doubt in the minds of people, which result in unbelief. Unbelief is a contagious disease, which causes one to depart from God. **Hebrews 3:12** says, *“Lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God.”* Unbelief will cause countless souls to be lost in eternity.

The Bible tells us from where all things came, why we are here, how we are to live while here, and where we are going. The Bible is the word of God, which is verbally inspired, infallible, inerrant, all sufficient and authoritative. The Bible is *“Not in words which man’s wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Spirit teaches”* (**I Corinthians 2:13**). In the Bible, God has told us everything we need so we can please Him and go to Heaven. **II Peter 1:3** says, *“His divine power has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness.”*

Each of us will make the choice to either accept the Bible as our authority in religion or reject it. But we will bear the consequences of our choice. God’s word is the authority or standard by which all people will be judged on Judgment Day.

Jesus says in **John 12:48**, *“He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him, the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”* People may ignore God’s word now, but on Judgment Day they will not be able to ignore it. Happy will be the person who has shown his love for the truth of God’s word and obeyed it. Because the Bible is the pure and inspired word of God, it *“is able to save your souls”* (**James 1:21**). But woe be to those who have set it aside.

We must not neglect to follow God’s authoritative word if we want to go to Heaven. **Hebrews 2:3** says, *“How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation, which at first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him.”* There is no escape if one neglects to believe and obey God’s authoritative and infallible word.

Ron Boatwright