



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

October 9, 2016

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Deacons:

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Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

Minister:

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Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:30 pm

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HIS TRUTH MARCHES ON

The indictment of Isaiah against his generation, a people who had temporarily succeeded in turning truth upon its head, is no less applicable today: *“Woe unto them that call evil good; and good evil, that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!” (Isaiah 5:20-21).*

Though Isaiah’s generation perished in captivity the truth continued to march on. Their calling “evil good; and good evil” did not make it so.

We face a similar challenge today, when right is called wrong and wrong is called right; when all things “gay” are assumed to be good, while God, oddly enough, is portrayed as one of this world’s larger problems.

Everything we once thought was true is now decried as false; all we once thought to be false is now lauded as true. But never forget this: truth will prevail. In the final analysis, when all has been said and done, when once-powerful nations have long-since crumbled into the dust of oblivion, God’s truth will prevail.

Men may deny truth’s very existence. They may denounce it and demonize it. They may debate it incessantly. But truth will prevail.

In the words of James Russell Lowell, “There is no good in arguing with the inevitable. The only argument available with the east wind is to put on your overcoat.”

Dalton Key

FAITH COMES BE HEARING

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).

Pertaining to personal salvation, there is no subject more necessary than faith. In **Hebrews 11:6** it is written, *“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”*

The importance of faith is likely the most common feature of every religious group under the general umbrella of Christianity. From the most liberal to the ultra-conservative, faith is a predictable admonition heard from their pulpits and classes.

However, what distinguishes many of them is what they consider to be the source or means of procuring faith. How a person develops or receives faith often solicits a range of answers.

A very popular view, for instance, is that by coming to church and being around Christians faith can be built by it being transferred one to another. Others believe faith is a religious experience that one can construct by going to a mountain peak or ministering to the poor.

One view is that God mystically supplies faith to an individual. It is believed by many that the Holy Spirit pours out faith into the heart of the person God selects to be saved. It is accordingly taught that a person cannot pray for faith or act in any way to receive it. It is purely a choice of God as to who receives faith and who does not.

Another view is that faith happens when one seeks God and ultimately turns his heart over to Him. While there is some truth to this view, according to the above verse, it does not include the role of the “word of Christ” in the process.

“Faith comes from hearing” describes a process beginning with one’s capacity to learn. This reveals to us that producing faith is not a purely miraculous event done to the one God chooses for salvation. Rather, it is much like any area of learning where the knowledge does not come from personal experience but from what is heard and read. This is why in a few verses earlier it is written, *“How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?” (Romans 10:14).*

Does faith come from God? Yes, in as much as God’s word is from God. Without the Divine initiative to inspire men to write the Bible and the dedication of the church to spread it, there would be no faith. Do you want to impart faith to another? Teach the Bible.

Do you want to fortify your own faith? Study the Bible. It is just that simple.

Floyd Kaiser