



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

September 12, 2021

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:

Dale Barger

Service Times:

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

Email:

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Time Management

Living the way God wants us to live requires the proper consciousness, commitment, and management of time. Paul exhorted, “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is” (**Ephesians 5:15-17**).

What did Paul mean when he said, “*walk circumspectly*”? The word “*circumspectly*” (akribos) means “*accurately*” and “*carefully*.” Walking “*accurately*” and “*carefully*” is our goal as Christians.

What did Paul mean when he said, “*redeeming the time*”? W. E. Vine said that the word “*redeeming*” (exagorazo) means “*to buy up for oneself*” or “*buying up the opportunity*.” It suggests the idea of using our time and opportunities to the fullest. That is what we must do as Christians.

What are your plans? Are you planning to be steadfast and to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord (**2 Peter 3:17-18**)? Those are worthy goals! Are you planning to worship God regularly (**Hebrews 10:24-25**)? That is a worthy goal! Are you planning to teach others about Jesus (**Mark 16:15-16**)? That, too, is a worthy goal! Are you planning on bearing fruit in His vineyard (**John 15:1-8**)? What a worthy goal! Are you planning to grow in the Christian graces (**2 Peter 1:5-11**)? Wonderful!

To do these things we must do three things: (1) we must “understand what the will of the Lord is,” (2) we must “walk circumspectly,” and (3) we must commit ourselves to “*redeeming the time*.” We must align our priorities! We must “*seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness*” (**Matthew 6:33**). Time management is life management!

Dwight Fuqua
Findlay church of Christ
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Times Change

Most of the time, change is good. We all want to grow, get stronger, learn more, see more places, etc. Certainly we are aware of the fact that our methods and tactics must change and adapt when we become ineffective. We must take advantage of opportunities as they are presented. On and on we could go.

But not all change is good. “*Change*” continues to barrel over our country at a rapidly destructive pace. The powers-that-be seem to be dead-set at making it more and more difficult to be an openly practicing and faithful Christian. Laws are being established that, if followed, would effectively silence the preaching of the Gospel and remove the church from its God-appointed role as the defender of divine truth.

Consider how times have changed in the last 240 years when it comes to way that worship and general ethical-moral behavior is concerned. On July 5, 1775, General George Washington issued this order to the Continental Army:

“The General most earnestly requires and expects a due observance of those articles of war established for the government of the army, which forbid profane cursing, swearing, and drunkenness. And in like manner, he requires and expects of all officers and soldiers not engaged in actual duty, a punctual attendance of Divine services, to implore the blessing of Heaven upon the means used for our safety and defense.”

Washington said his army could not curse or swear? Same is true for soldiers of Christ (**Eph. 4:29-5:4**).

Washington said his army could not be drunkards? Same is true for soldiers of Christ (**1 Cor. 6:10; Gal. 5:21**).

Washington said his army was required to attend worship services? Same is true for soldiers of Christ (**Acts 20:7; Heb. 10:25**).

Washington said his army was expected to implore the blessing of Heaven in supplication and prayer? Same is true for soldiers of Christ (**1 Tim. 2:1; 1 Thess. 5:17**).

Today, public officials could not get away with issuing an order similar to the one given by General Washington. How times have changed!

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