



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

September 15, 2019

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
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 7:00 pm

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

EXCUSES WON'T WORK

By **Jimmy Ferguson**

One of the many lessons taught in the Scriptures is that the Lord will not accept excuses in the place of obedience. This apparently has been a difficult lesson for man to learn through the centuries. Some of the most prominent men and women in the Bible have tried to “excuse” themselves from obedience to God’s will but it did not work – and reader friend, it won’t work today!

“The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate” (Genesis 3:1). Here we have the first instance of “passing the buck” in order to justify self. It didn’t work.

When Adam failed, Eve tried. *“The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.” (Genesis 3:13).* Did she really think she had no responsibility in the matter?!?

“So they gave it to me, and I cast it into the fire, and this calf came out” (Exodus 32:24). How about this for an “explanation” of how the golden calf came to be in the camp of Israel!

“The people spared the best of the sheep and oxen, to sacrifice to the Lord” (I Samuel 15:15). Did King Saul really believe that one can disobey God and worship Him at the same time and it be acceptable?

“I was afraid, and went and hid your talent.” (Matthew 25:25). However, the one-talent man came to understand that opportunity plus ability equals responsibility. How many of us try to excuse ourselves from duty because of fear?

What about you? Do you offer excuses for not worshipping; visiting the sick, shut-ins, or weak members; and for not otherwise working in the kingdom? As was the case with God’s people of old, excuses just won’t work! A day of reckoning is coming!

“FEEL GOOD”

Sin is always with us. Since the Garden of Eden, when Adam and Eve violated God’s commandment, sin has been dominant on the earth. It will always be dominant because Satan tempts people with sin in such a way that makes it much more attractive to people than righteousness. He tempts with the attitude of “feel good” actions. When people sin and it causes them to feel good, they want more and more of it.

Remember Satan doesn’t tempt people softly and gently. He comes “*As a roaring lion, walking about, seeking whom he may devour*” (**I Peter 5:8**). He presents temptations with enough vim, vigor and vitality that he makes sin hard to resist. So much of our attraction to sin comes from being “in a rut” and Satan is aware of that and he know just how to get to those who are looking for something more to make them feel good. Every one want to “feel good.”

However, the physical “feel good” is what separated man from God to begin with. When Satan tempted Eve in Eden and she succumbed because she “*saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes and a tree to be desired to make one wise*” (**Genesis 3:6**), she was sure it would make her life much better. How wrong our desire to sin can be! Remember that Satan is “*more subtle*” (**Genesis 3:1**) than any other being. He knows how to get to you and he’s crafty about doing it.

But God has given men an “out” of sin for “*He gives more grace*” (**James 4:6**). God’s way is always better than Satan’s way. God expects us to “*Submit yourselves to God; resist the devil and he will flee from you*” (**James 4:6**). To overcome the power of Satan, one must be submissive to God and His will. Then the devil will see that he has no power. Being submissive is more than lip service. It means that you submit your mind, soul and body to God. James continues with this thought in verse 8 as he says, “*Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you.*” God is faithful and will take care of His people. He will provide strength to overcome temptations and hardships.

Mankind’s problem in dealing with sin is not being able to separate physical and spiritual differences. Man wants to accept the two things as part of his being and feels that both are equal. That won’t ever work because “*If any man loves the world (physical) the love of the Father (spiritual) is not in him.*” John goes on to say that “*all that is in the world; the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life is not of the Father but is of the world*” (**I John 2:15-16**). These are the three avenues through which Satan tempts man-kind and brings about his fall.

Perhaps David felt as strongly as anyone ever has about the subject of man’s sin problem. Just listen to his wisdom in **Psalms 37**: “*Trust in the Lord and do good; delight thyself in the Lord; commit thy way to the Lord and trust in Him; rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him; cease from anger and forsake wrath; wait on the Lord and keep His way.*” From the beginning, David had it all! He was a handsome young man who was given the care of his father’s sheep; he became the armor-bearer and musician to King Saul and he was a valiant warrior. He married the king’s daughter and he, himself, became a king. Worship of God was organized under his reign. But with all this favor, David proved to be “human” after all as he committed adultery with Bathsheba and made her his wife. David repented deeply as he “*fasted and lay all night upon the earth; neither did he eat bread*” (**II Samuel 12**).

David fell prey to all three avenues of sin as he took Bathsheba to wife and he was tormented by those sins. “*Lust brings forth sin and when sin is finished, it brings forth death*” (**James 1**). Keep Satan at bay and keep God in the forefront by exercising your faith in God. And feel good about it!

Royce Pedergrass