



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

September 17, 2017

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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
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 7:30 pm

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BEARING FRUIT

*“My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit,
and so prove to be My disciples.”* **John 15:8**

Christians are attached to Jesus. The Son of God should be providing strength and nourishment to Christians, as Jesus is the vine and we are the attached branches. Branches that do not bear fruit will be pruned or removed from the vine so they do not take away from other branches that are bearing fruit. When a child of God bears fruit, it proves itself. And God is glorified.

Apple trees bear apples and prove themselves to be “apple” branches. If it is receiving the proper nourishment, the branch will produce a “glorious” apple. When the child of God does what he should, he produces fruit that glorifies God. When the world sees these fruits in us, they will glorify God who is in heaven (**Matthew 16**).

Righteousness is a fruit that glorifies God (**Philippians 1:11**). When our faith is at work, our lives will be filled with goodness and truth and the Lord will be glorified in us (**II Thessalonians 1:11-12**). Living a moral life gives glory to God. Lives that show honesty, kindness, morality, truthfulness, and trustworthiness glorify God.

Praise and worship are also fruit that glorifies God. The fruit of our lips offered in prayer and song is called a sacrifice of praise to God. By it, the Lord is glorified. The Lord hears our praise regardless of where we might be. But praise needs to be given where others hear. Fruit needs to be enjoyed by all around us. As God wants others to see our good deeds and then glorify God, God wants others to hear our praise and recognize the glory of God.

The fruit in us will change who we are. The Spirit in us will develop in us a person who looks like God. The Fruit that the Spirit has in us is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. These qualities proclaim the presence of God in us.

Does the Lord have fruit in you? Do you give Him glory?

Gerald Elliott

IS THE DEVIL RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR SINS?

Satan desires one thing, which is the spiritual demise of all humanity. He wants every souls to end up in hell with him (**Matthew 25:41**). Satan accomplishes his mission by getting people to live their lives in sin. Satan “*entered in*” Judas and caused him to *betray* the Lord (**John 13:27; 18:1-5**). Satan “*filled*” Ananias’ heart to lie to the Holy Spirit (**Acts 5:3**). Satan “*deceived*” Eve to disobey the Lord (**I Timothy 2:14; Genesis 3:1-6**). Jesus told Peter that “*Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not*” (**Luke 22:31-32**). The devil is always busy trying to “*devour*” people with sin (**I Peter 5:8; I John 3:8; John 8:44; II Corinthians 2:11**). So when we sin, is the devil responsible for our transgressions because he caused us to do it?

The devil does tempt us to sin. He even tried to tempt Jesus to sin (**Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13**). However, if the devil is responsible for our sins, then why will we one day be held accountable for them (**II Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:12; John 5:28-29; Revelation 20:11-12**)? It is because the devil cannot “make” us do anything. He only plays a part in our sin by dangling the carrot. James said, “*Every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin...*” (**James 1:14-15**). The devil only tempts, and it is we who either resist or transgress. This is why God “*will render to every man according to his deeds*” (**Romans 2:6**). We have the ability through Christ (**Ephesians 6:1; Philippians 4:13**) and the responsibility as Christians to “*Resist the devil, and he will flee from you*” (**James 4:7**). After resisting, the devil leaves “*for a season*” (a while, but never for good) (**Luke 4:13**). Nevertheless, we have “*endured*” that temptation to sin (**James 1:12**). Furthermore, with every temptation we are given all the help necessary to withstand the devil; as God will not allow any temptation beyond our individual power to resist, and also gives each and every one of us a faithful way out (**I Corinthians 10:13**).

So when we give in to sin, it is our fault!

Richard Stevens III