



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

September 25, 2016

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Elders:

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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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WASTING TIME

I have heard others say, myself included, “This is a waste of time.” How do you define wasted time? By what standard or what measure do you utilize to determine if the use of your time has been worth it or wasted? For example, I have a friend who thinks he is funny. He always has a joke to tell. Every time he begins with, “Have you heard this one?” I always and immediately conclude that what proceeds out of his mouth will by no means be funny; nor in any capacity will it be beneficial. It is, in the truest sense, a complete waste of time. Why? Because it didn’t produce anything of substance.

Although those types of things are somewhat annoying and a complete waste of time; they are completely harmless. Suffering through a friend’s horrifically lame joke will not cost you your soul. However, Peter discusses something that will. Notice what Peter says in **I Peter 4:3**, “*For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles – when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.*”

Brethren, it is a waste of time to live like the world. We have devoted far too much time in pursuit of those things, and look what they have produced: absolutely nothing but death! Paul asks a very poignant question in **Romans 6:21**, “*What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.*”

So, how do you define what is a waste of time? It’s simple really. Does it produce life, or death? What about the things that you pursue? What do they produce?

Jeremy Tucker

BENEFITS OF WORSHIP

The New York Times published an extremely interesting article recently. The guest columnist was one T.M. Luhrmann, a professor of anthropology at Stanford University and the author of many books. Luhrmann took it upon herself to study religion “as an anthropological observer.” This means that for an extended period of time she not only visited numerous different denominational worship services, she actually got involved. She went to Bible class, she went to worship, she even participated in small-group Bible studies in church members homes.

Here is what she discovered: “One of the most striking scientific discoveries about religion in recent years is that going to church weekly is good for you. Religious attendance – at least, religiosity – boosts the immune system and decreases blood pressure. It may add as much as two or three years to your life.”

Remember, this is coming from someone who has no real interest in being religious – no interest in conversion – no interest in confession – they are just collecting and recording the “scientific data” as they see it. The surprising result of this secular examination of religion is this: Religion is good for you. Being an active part of a local body of believers is good for you!

However, this is not surprising to someone that has read the Bible. This is not surprising to someone who has been faithfully living the Christian life and has been an active participant in worship of the Almighty. Our Lord assured us that He offers the best life now (**John 10:10**). We are also assured of the fact that half-hearted participation in the work and worship of the church leads to weak and even dead faith (**I Corinthians 11:30; Hebrews 10:24-27**).

Lessons Learned & Things To Do:

1. Stop being a half-hearted, part-time member of the body of Christ!
2. Give your very best to the Lord (which, in turn, means you will give your very best to His body).
3. Get the most out of this life...get the most out of yourself.

The scientific discovery is that the faithful member of a local religious body may add two to three years to their life. What science has failed to discover is this: A loving, trusting, and faithful life centers around Jesus the Christ and the institution that He purchased with His very blood (**Acts 20:28**) will not only add a few years to this life, it will lead to eternity in the presence of God. “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God” (**Revelation 21:3**).

Bart Warren