



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

September 28, 2014

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Kirby Hinds

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

Monday

Ladies Class 10 am

Email:

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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

HIS MERCY & GRACE

Question: Why did Jesus come to this earth to live, walk and talk among humankind?

Answer: To manifest mercy and the grace of God.

When Jesus, through faith's eye, is seen nailed to Calvary's cross, spikes through his hands and thorns on his brow, blood pouring from His side, we see the manifestation of God's grace toward humankind. And while man cannot work his way into heaven or earn his salvation, man can approach God in faith, contrite confession, repentance and baptism and find forgiveness. There is the grace of God! We don't deserve it, but we get it.

A man once said, "When I get to the judgment of God, all that I will ask for is justice." Another responded, "Friend, the last thing you should want is justice. You don't want justice. What you will want, what you will need is mercy, the mercy of God, the grace of God as it was in Christ Jesus who died for us and who arose again."

Unless we view God's grace through the suffering of Jesus Christ on the cross, we will not comprehend divine grace and mercy – their true meaning and significance.

"At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life." (Titus 3:3-7).

Coy Hathcock

INDECISION KEEPS US FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE VICTORY

They were called to war. But they stayed home discussing what to do. For their "great indecision," they did not go to the front, but sat among the flocks listening to the whistles of the shepherds. They missed out on Israel's victory! What a shameful moment for the tribe of Reuben! (For this account, see **Judges 5:15-16**).

Some Bible versions translated their great indecision as great searches of the heart, or they thought long and hard about it. So long in fact, that they never got up and went. Perhaps they even affirmed their decision, but they failed to grab their arms and go to war.

The tribe of Reuben did not send a letter to their brethren declining to participate. They only made great speeches or debated among themselves about the propriety of the conflict.

Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

- ✓ Am I going to church today?
- ✓ One of these days I'm going to become a Christian.
- ✓ Very soon I'll follow Jesus.
- ✓ We need to think carefully before getting involved in missions.
- ✓ I really need to get out of this compromising situation.

The deliberations come in all shapes and sizes. Indecision appears with many faces. But they are all mere words. Action is lacking. Commitment is missing. Like the tribe of Reuben, many remain among the flocks in a constant state of indecision and heated debate.

For many, indecision saves people from obligation. Passivity becomes the easy way of refusal. Be it for fear or laziness or love of the world, lack of action responds to the call of Christ with a negative answer.

A popular website recently published an article titled, "Eight ways to say 'yes.'" In the spiritual realm, there are a thousand ways to refuse God's call. Indecision is one of those ways. But there is only one way to accept the gospel: obedient faith in Christ Jesus.

Indecision often bloats life with many activities, in order to prevent one from thinking about the invitation to follow the Master. People invent excuses of caring for parents, seeing about their properties and possessions, taking care of business (**see Luke 9:56-62 and 14:15-24**). We fill life with things and tasks, and we lose the abundant life that Christ offers.

Jesus said, "*Anyone who isn't with Me opposes Me, and anyone who isn't working with Me is actually working against Me*" (**Matthew 12:30**).

J. Randall Matheny