



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

September 30, 2018

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Deacons:

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Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

Minister:

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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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WHAT IT MEANS TO DIE LOST

To be lost is lonely, helpless, hopeless feeling. To die lost in sin is the epitome of “lostness.” No other lost situation compares. Consider what it means to die lost in sin.

There is the facing of the wrath of Almighty God unleashed in all its force and fury. The “wrath of God” which will fall upon the unrighteous is referred to four times in the first two chapters of Romans. *“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Hebrews 10:31).* Man’s puniness is no match against God’s mighty punishing power, to be leveled upon unrepentant lost sinners.

There is eternal separation that exists. One lost in sin is separated from God (**Isaiah 59:2**) and from Christ (**Ephesians 2:12**). If one is still separated from the Lord when earthly life ends, the separation will continue into an endless eternity, the lost will *“go away into eternal punishment” (Matthew 25:46)* forever removed *“away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His might” (II Thessalonians 1:9)*; the *“wages of sin” (Romans 6:23)*.

There is torment that never goes away. The lost will never be separated from the agony of hell. The rich man in **Luke 16** found no relief from his anguish. In life on earth he had it made; in death in Hades it mattered little how good it was on earth. His cried for mercy and pain relief were denied; his pitiful plea for special warnings to be issued to his brothers back on earth was rejected. The “punishment of eternal destruction” (**II Thessalonians 1:9**) is characterized by the endless *“weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matthew 8:12)*.

There is Satan. The lost will be hosted in hell by their great *“adversary” (I Peter 5:8)*, the devil himself. He is that *“ancient serpent...the deceiver of the whole world” (Revelation 12:9)*. The lost will have been deceived into thinking *“all is well with me soul.”* And Satan will say to them, “welcome, I won!”

Don’t allow the devil to win. Turn to the Lord Jesus Christ: He died for your sins in order to save you and to give you a home in Heaven. Believe, repent, and be baptized to be saved from sin, Satan and hell.

James Cudd

DO WE REALLY WANT TO BE WITH GOD?

The words of a particular song often sung by the church go like this – “I just want to be where You are, in Your dwelling place forever, I don’t want to worship from afar, draw me near to where You are. I want to be where You are, dwelling in Your presence, feasting at Your table, surrounded by Your glory. In Your presence, that’s where I always want to be. I just want to be, I just want to be with You.”

The obvious message in this song is the desire we have to be in Heaven with God forever. We don’t want to be separated from Him at any moment, and we recognize that to be present with God and absent from the world is glory (**II Corinthians 5:8**).

There is also a sense in which we realize God is always with us. **Romans 8** teaches that Christians are never separated from and cannot be separated from the love of God. This of course leaves us with one single alternative. If we choose to leave God of our own accord, then we can leave fellowship with God and be lost eternally.

So what is holding us back from being forever in the presence of God? S-I-N! If not for sin there would never have been death (**Romans 6:23**). There never would have been the expulsion of mankind from the Garden of Eden, from the tree of life and from the presence of Almighty God (**Genesis 3:22-24**). If not for sin, the Son of God would not have needed to leave Heaven. Sin comes in many forms, but ultimately it is defined as the breaking of the law that God has set forth for His creation (**I John 3:4**). If we are to come back to God, the provision for our sin is Jesus Christ (**John 14:6; I John 2:1-2**).

But, the words of the song beg this question – Do we really want to be in God’s presence at all times? Are there things we do and say that make us hope God is not around when we do and say them? Would we rather be at a secular gathering than at worship? Would we rather study for school than study the Bible? Would we rather be in the company of the people of the world than with fellow Christians? Would we rather talk to a human being than talk to God?

We seriously need to consider making some changes if we have said “Yes” to some of these questions. Heaven is God’s eternal home, meaning the Father, Son and Holy Spirit will be there forever. The redeemed of all the ages and the innumerable angelic host will be there as well. If we want to be where He is then we better start living as if we were with God all of the time. God has made the offer of eternal fellowship with the human race, and we are the ones who have been blessed with love beyond our imagination. With these things in mind, let us continually praise our God together, and let each heart make a sweet sacrifice to His name, saying, “I just want to be where You are...”

“Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore” – Psalms 16:11

Jeremiah Tatum