



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

September 3, 2023

P.O. Box 416
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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Dale Barger

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

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Are You Tired?

“Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He comes forth like a flower and fades away; he flees like a shadow and does not continue.” **Job 14:1-2** reminds us life is hard and short. This is not “news” to any of us! We are all aware of the challenges of life that we each face every day. The obstacles we deal with range from physical, emotional, relational, financial and so many more. In sum, the pain we see, feel, and anticipate is extremely hard. The older we get the more we realize this. Daily battles make us tired, weary, weak (vulnerable), and irritable. Sometimes we may struggle to have a “good attitude” or demonstrate a “friendly disposition.” We might say, “Life turned me this way.”

The good news is found in **Matthew 11:28**. Jesus says, “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” This is not just a mere invitation to believe a few facts about our Savior. This statement has a much wider application for all of us! Jesus provides rest for our souls! Responding to Christ allows us to seek forgiveness for our sins, sharpen our focus on eternity, and distance ourselves from the ugliness of the world.

We all can agree on this, we all get tired! God has promised us rest (**Hebrews 4:1-16**). The rest that is promised is one that we do not want to miss. Wayne Jackson says this about the promised rest, “One must have a reverential ‘fear’ of not receiving God’s ‘promise’ of rest (Non-rest is too horrible to contemplate!).” We all want to experience this type of rest eternally one day, but we cannot be rebellious. Israel missed out because they were stubbornly rebellious (**Hebrews 4:4-6**). Hebrews 4 teaches us we all must submit our lives to Him to know the true rest that is promised. We are also taught “unfaithfulness never remains undetected.” Today, let us seek the true rest that awaits through our submission to Christ.

Allen Jones
South Green Street church of Christ
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Satan Met a Brick Wall

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not”
(**Galatians 6:9**).

Temptations to forsake good works have ever plagued mankind. Satan has always known that the quickest and surest way to bring a good work to a halt is simply by discouraging the workers. Our enemy, as *“a roaring lion . . . seeking whom he may devour”* (**1 Peter 5:8**), delights in shrouding any shining ray of hope behind dark clouds of doubt and defeatism.

A wonderful biblical example of one who overcame Satan’s temptations to quit a worthy work can be found in the Old Testament story of Nehemiah. Nehemiah had not been laboring long in rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem before Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem, enemies of God’s people, heard of it and began a major campaign to halt the work. At first, they ridiculed the project. Tobiah dismissed the wall as being so weak that it would fall under the weight of a fox. (**Nehemiah 4:3.**) But the work continued.

These enemies then *“conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it,”* but still the work continued with the workmen holding a tool in one hand and a weapon in the other. (**4:8,17.**) Sanballat and Geshem tempted Nehemiah to take a rest from the work and meet with them on the plains of Ono to talk the matter over. But the invitation was refused and the work continued. (**6:1-4.**) Finally, ugly and untruthful rumors were circulated in a last-ditch effort to discredit the work and the motive behind it. (**6:5-9.**) But the work continued and the wall was finished in just 52 days. (**6:15.**)

The keys to Nehemiah’s success? Among others, note these: first, *“They strengthened their hands for this good work,”* believing that God would help them. (**2:18,20.**) And second, *“The people had a mind to work.”* (**4:6.**) Because the work was perceived as greater than the workers and because it was seen as a work of God and aided by God, Nehemiah’s company *“had a mind to work.”* They would thus be neither discouraged nor dissuaded.

Satan met a brick wall when he came up against Nehemiah and his workmen. May the same be true of his efforts against our good works as we labor for the Lord today.

Dalton Key
Broken Arrow, OK