



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

September 4, 2016

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Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

Minister:

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Secretary:

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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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WHY???

If a married woman registered at a hotel under the name of a man other than her husband, it would certainly arouse our suspicions concerning her faithfulness to her husband, wouldn't it? We would naturally believe she was trying to hide her identity and her whereabouts from her husband and quite possibly from another man who might not be aware that she was married to someone else.

In the last few years, it has become fashionable in the religious world around us for various denominations to hide their identity. Where once you could drive through a town and see signs identifying different religious bodies plainly – First Baptist Church, First Methodist Church, United Pentecostal Church, Assembly of God – it has become common today to see signs reading simply, “Worship Center,” “House of Praise,” “House of Prayer,” and “Community Chapel.” They may or may not be further identified with a specific denomination in small print at the bottom of the sign. If their doctrine and names had been Biblical, there would be no reason to try to hide them from the light of day.

Some of the churches of Christ have also jumped on this bandwagon. But the church is Biblically identified as the bride of Christ (**II Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:22-33, Revelation 21:2**). If we are reluctant to wear the husband's name, we should not be surprised if people conclude that we are being unfaithful to him. Let us never be ashamed to wear the name of Christ. The “churches of Christ” is Biblical (**Romans 16:16**). Let us **not** see how far we can get from the Bible but how **close** we can stay to it in all things.

Jim Mullican

“HOW ABOUT GIVING A BOOST?”

We are all subject to it every so often! I’m speaking of “being down in the dumps” on occasion. When this occurs we need a brother or sister in Christ to encourage and remind us just how much our God loves and cares; perhaps some good news from one of our children or a relative; an unexpected note or phone call to cheer us up.

A faithful Bible class teacher, who for years looked forward to sharing his understanding of God’s word with others each Lord’s Day, was in such a “down in the dumps” predicament one day. Life seemed to be offering nothing but discouragement and disappointment. It seemed the old devil had gotten the best of him, at least temporarily.

Brother Sam Potts lived in a rural setting and on this particular morning went to the mailbox without much anticipation, thinking, “probably there’s nothing in it but circulars, bills, or bulletins with someone wanting something.” **Well, he was wrong this time!** There was a letter from one who had been in his class at church several years before. The letter read that the challenging teaching of Bro. Potts that Sunday morning resulted later in a complete change in his life. After he and his family had moved to another location, additional study of the Bible resulted, he obeyed the gospel, his wife followed him, and before too long, the two oldest of his children became obedient to the true and living God. **Whew, what a “boost!”**

A young Joshua seems to have needed a great deal of encouragement, and Moses, his senior in years and experience, gave it to him on several occasions. One of those times is recorded in **Deuteronomy 3:28**. Moses was not allowed to lead the Israelites into the promised land because of previous error, however, here he commands the people in reference to Joshua, “...encourage him and strengthen him; for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which you will see.”

Jonathan gave David needed support and encouragement when King Saul was hounding him and seeking to take his life. “*Then Jonathan, Saul’s son, arose and went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God,*” (**I Samuel 23:16**).

We find in **Acts 9:27** the “boost” or support that a young Christian by the name of Paul received from Barnabas, “*But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles.*” His very name means, “*Son of Encouragement.*” Paul desperately needed this help because the disciples remembered how he was before and “...were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple,” **Acts 9:26**. Priscilla and Aquila were instrumental in Paul’s growth and work. In **Romans 16:3** the great apostle said, “*Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.*”

Think about it... “*A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver,*” **Proverbs 25:11**. And another from this beautiful Book of Proverbs, “*A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season how good it is!*” **Proverbs 15:23**. We disobey God if we do not... “*Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do so.*” **Proverbs 3:27**.

To express appreciation and encouragement for another is to turn up the thermostat in his heart and bless his life. Give someone a smile, a Christian hug, a sincere pat on the back, “boost” them in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Charles D. Beebe

The Saddest Story Ever Told

By Todd Houston

Perhaps our tendency to take things for granted is only surpassed by our tendency to ignore clear warnings given for our advantage. I remember seeing a video of a woman trying to hurry across a train track in London, England in spite of the blaring sound of the train whistle and the flashing lights at the station. It ended badly for her.

In our thoughts for today, we consider the most tragic instance of human ignorance and arrogance ever recorded. Indeed, each and every one of us must face the consequences of the decisions made by the subjects of our story. I am certain these two had no real grasp of the extent to which their choice would wreak havoc on their posterity, but nevertheless their poor decision altered the course of human history with no earthly means of repairing the damage. Thankfully, God prepared a plan to undo the terrible consequences we must face for the sin introduced by Adam and Eve.

Lest we be too hard on the first couple, we must recognize they had no experiential knowledge of the consequences their sin would bring into this world. As we have a limited view of the nature and scope of our choices, Adam and Eve desperately needed the guidance of the Almighty. Fortunately for us, as with them, God has granted us “...*all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.*” (**2 Pet. 1:3**). Knowing His dealings with them and us, let us learn the lesson from their folly in order to receive the life and godliness He provided.

It begins with faith. The basic meaning of the term faith is trust. God spoke plainly and truthfully to them. He also gave them ample reason to trust Him by giving them a perfect place to thrive. When Satan deceived Eve, his first step was to sow the seeds of distrust. As he painted a picture of God selfishly denying what was rightfully hers, he undermined her trust in God. Had she maintained her trust in God, our story would read much differently. Remember, “*The just shall live by his faith.*” (**Hab. 2:4; Rom. 1:16-17**). We must take God at His word if we are to live.

Second, we must be content with what we have. Satan used the same formula to tempt Eve he uses on us today. He appealed to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (**Gen. 3:6; cf. 1 Jn. 2:15-17**). Is it any wonder the Scriptures speak so much about thankfulness and contentment (**Heb. 13:5; 1 Tim. 6:6-9; Col. 3:15-17**)? Satan shifted Eve’s focus from all the trees God had given her and narrowed her scope to the only one He denied her. We must count our blessings and never let Satan convince us God has wrongfully withheld what we deserve.

Finally, we must practice humility. The difference in that tree and the rest was its usefulness to make one wise (**Gen. 3:6**). The other trees in the garden were no doubt good for food and pleasing to the eyes. So, we must conclude the pride of becoming like God was the clincher for Adam and Eve. As my dad would say, they got a little too big for their breeches. Satan still tries to play on our pride and convince us we deserve the things God has prohibited. The humble heart knows God’s laws are for our good always (**Deut. 6:24; Heb. 12:7-11**). So, will we take God at His word, or will we be taken captive by the devil’s empty deceit (**Col. 2:8-10; 2 Cor. 11:4**)?