



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

January 13, 2008

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

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Omer Collins
Albert Griffin

Deacons:

Bobby Bear
Kendall Bear
Roger Carter
Don Chandler
Steve McCreary
Don Wicks

Minister:

Brad Tate, B.A., M.A.,
D.MIN

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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GOD STILL WORKS IN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE TODAY – HE STILL MOVES STONES

As we continue this New Year, we have begun our focus on this new series. This series will continue studies that are not just some Sunday school story. They are not some fable or somewhere-over-the-rainbow illusions. They are historical moments where a real God met real pain in order to answer the question, “Where is God when we hurt?”

Meeting the pain, one must understand, we are not promised tomorrow, we are not promised our health, and we are not promised our future; unless we believe and obey His commands, then we are promised the forgiveness of God and heaven. The God who came into this world to save sinners still longs to save sinners and he invites us to come to Him in order to be in heaven with Him. He came to do what you and I cannot do, and he wants you to be a part of that plan put in place for each of us. God is still in the business of moving stones that we thought we could never move. As we continue this study, we will continue our observation of “The Bruised Reed” and “The Smoking Flaxes”...

THE BRUISED REED

It stood with assurance,
Head held high on the strong stalk.
But that was before the crash and harsh rain.
Now it is bruised and bent; weakened.
It longs for gentle fingers to straighten it.
It wants a touch to heal and not hurt.
It wants a tender power and soft strength.
Is there such a hand that can heal and straighten this fragile reed?

THE SMOKING FLAXES

Materials make up the wick for flame.
A flame is ignited for light
But, cold wind or hot wind, which one?
Will the candle be over come by such?
Sometimes it is stubborn showing struggles
It battles with the shadows of darkness,
Yet, seeks a brighter flame for power, and
Longs for fire that is hotter, brighter, and higher.

As you read these two poems I have put together, I would like for you to think about your life. Have you stood firm as the reed? Have you had assurance until the crash of hurtful words or treacherous rains that have pounded on you to make you feel weakened only longing to be touched or healed? There is a hand for the sinner that can heal and straighten your life. A

smoking flax is one who is, with the right materials, has the opportunity to flame for God. Their flame becomes ignited, but they must withstand the cold and hot times in order to remain lit. The question is, will you let Satan have you or God have you? Sometimes we struggle, but in the battles of darkness, we should want to seek a brighter flame for power and we should long for the fire that is hotter, brighter, and higher and never let our light dim or be put out until we have left this life in full assurance of standing for God, the truth, and standing for righteousness by knowing that when we have obeyed every command given to us that we will have a brighter and higher flame in heaven – Jesus is our hope of a brighter and higher flame that will never burn out.

Brad

REVERENCE DURING THE LORD'S SUPPER

The night before Jesus died he instituted the Lord's Supper. The Bible tells us about this act of worship in such passages as **Matthew 26:17-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:19-20; Acts 2:42; 20:7; I Corinthians 10:16-22; 11:20-34**. The Lord's Supper consists of two elements – the bread and the cup.

The Bread

From the passages above, we learn that the unleavened bread (prepared without yeast) represents the body of Jesus, which endured the punishment which we actually deserved because of our sins (**Romans 6:23**).

Christ was scourged – whipped until his back was only strips of flesh, He was beaten up, and He had a crown of thorns nailed into his scalp. On the top of the mountain, spikes were driven into His hands and feet (**Psalms 22**). And He was lifted up to die one of the most agonizing deaths a person could ever endure.

And each time we eat the bread we remember that body.

The Cup

As Jesus gave his disciples the drink, he said: *"This cup is the new covenant in my blood, do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."* (**I Corinthians 11:25b**). Only the blood of Christ can remove our sins (**I Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 1:5**).

The contents in this cup represent that I have escaped from the punishment that I deserved because I am a sinner. And each time we sip the fruit of the vine (grape juice) we remember Jesus' blood flowing out of His tortured body so we can have the joy of salvation.

The Reverence

No wonder the Bible gives us this stark warning: *"Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord"* (**I Corinthians 11:27**).

Is it more than embarrassing whenever a teenager asks the question: "Why do Sisters 'ABC' and 'XYZ' talk during the Lord's Supper?" Or 'why does Brother 'PQR' sleep or play with the baby during communion?"

I know that it's easy to be distracted during this time...but doesn't our Lord deserve the extra effort?

Think about it!

Larry Fitzgerald