



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

April 15, 2012

P.O. Box 416  
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Rockwood, TN 37854  
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**Elders:**

Dana Carter  
Kenneth Carter  
Don Chandler

**Deacons:**

Bobby Bear  
Kendall Bear  
Larry Brackett  
Roger Carter  
Steve McCreary  
Don Wicks

**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:**

rockwdcc@earthlink.net

**Website:**

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## WHAT MATTERS

*“But keeping the commandments of God is what matters”*

### **I Corinthians 7:19.**

People strive for many things in life. We must remember that all material things will stay in the world. We will die and leave this world, but our earthly possessions will remain here for someone else. That is the reason we are told *“lay up treasures in heaven.”* When your heart is on worldly possessions, you have only earthly treasures. Does it really matter if we have a nicer house than the neighbors?

Remember the man who had many possessions, but God called him a fool because he was going to die that night? **(Luke 12:20)**. *“Another man came to Jesus asking what to do to inherit eternal life. Jesus told him to sell all he had and give it to the poor and follow Jesus. The man went away sorrowful, because he had great possessions.”* **(Mark 10:17-22)**.

Solomon searched for what matters. He wrote the book of **Ecclesiastes** about his search. He tried so many different things. In the end he said, *“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil”* **(Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)**. Many people do not believe this conclusion. Sadly, some Christians have not grasped this understanding either. Each of us will do well to remember you cannot serve two masters. **Matthew 6:24**. So we must seek the kingdom of God and his righteousness, **Matthew 6:33**. Jesus said, *“If you love Me, keep My commandments”* **John 14:15**.

**Vernon Curry**

## THE FOUR CORNERSTONES OF CHURCH FAILURE

The letter to the Hebrews is a great study of the superiority of the New Covenant over the Old Covenant. But in it are also some great lessons for the church today. In one section, covering portions of **Hebrews** chapter 5-6, we can see some things that hurt the church. Let's notice them so that these can be avoided in our Christian lives, thus helping the church rather than hurting it.

**Ignorance hurts the church.** *"...since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food"* (**Hebrews 5:11-12**). The less we know about the Bible, the more the church is weakened. Truly, destruction follows ignorance in our lives and in the church (**Hosea 4:6**).

**Immaturity hurts the church.** *"For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe"* (**Hebrews 5:13**). If we do not continue to grow and mature in our Christianity, then the church does not grow as it ought. Immaturity leads to indecision and lack of conviction, and these are detrimental to personal and church success (**Ephesians 4:14**).

**Immorality hurts the church.** *"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened...if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance...For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; but if it bears thorns and briars, it is rejected..."* (**Hebrews 6:3-8**). If we go back to worldly ways, then the church loses its heavenly vision. Immorality kills souls and churches (**James 1:15**).

**Inactivity hurts the church.** *"...that you do not become sluggish..."* (**Hebrews 6:11**). If we get lazy and fail to get involved with the church's program's, evangelism, and activities, then the church is greatly weakened. Indifference and inactivity create a vast wasteland in us and the Lord's body (**Revelation 3:1-2; 15-16**).

The church is not a building, it is the called out people of God (**Ephesians 2:19-22; I Peter 2:5, 9**). Thus, it is imperative that we as living stones continue to grow and build properly onto this holy structure of God. We must continue to diligently study His Word (**II Timothy 2:15**), grow into maturity in our faith (**II Peter 3:18**), resist temptation and habitual sin (**James 4:7; I John 3:6-9**), and be very active in the work of the Lord (**I Corinthians 15:58**).

If we fail to do any of these, we are not only hurting ourselves, but also the church.

**Edd Sterchi**