



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

April 21, 2013

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

**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:**

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**Website:**

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## THE CHURCH, CHRIST'S KINGDOM

Some religious folk make a difference between the church and the kingdom. A popular theological system maintains that the church is an interim institution that will continue until Christ returns to reign on earth for a thousand years. According to this system, when Christ returns to earth, He will establish His kingdom. Does the Bible teach that the church and the kingdom are separate institutions?

First, Daniel predicted that God would one day establish a kingdom that would never be destroyed (**Daniel 2:44; 7:14**). He also specified the period of history when this would take place (**Daniel 2:31-46**). The kingdom was to come in the time of the Roman Empire.

Second, Zechariah predicted the promised Branch, who was the Messiah. Zechariah said that this Branch, the seed of David, would “*sit and rule upon His throne*” (**Zechariah 6:13**). Christ served as priest during the first century; therefore, He occupied the throne of David and began to rule over His kingdom in the first century.

Third, Jesus used the words church and kingdom interchangeably (**Matthew 16:16-18**). He identified His church and the kingdom and showed that the words church and kingdom refer to the same group of people and to the same institution.

Fourth, the language of the Hebrew writer proves that the church and kingdom are the same (**Hebrews 12:22-28**). He says that we have come to the church of the firstborn (Christ) and that we have received a kingdom that cannot be shaken (**Hebrew 12:23, 28**).

Fifth, when we are born of the water and the spirit, we enter the Lord's kingdom established on the Day of Pentecost after Christ's resurrection (**John 3:1-5; Acts 2**). At the same time and by the same process, the Lord adds us to His church (**Acts 2:37-47**).

Finally, prior to this Pentecost, the Bible speaks of the church and the kingdom in future terms. Christ taught, “*There are some here...who shall in no wise taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God come with power*” (**Mark 9:1**). He also said, “*Upon this rock I will build My church*” (**Matthew 16:18**). Following this Pentecost, the Bible speaks of the kingdom and the church as being in existence. The Bible says that He “*translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love*” (**Colossians 1:13**); we receive “*a kingdom that cannot be shaken*” (**Hebrews 12:28**); and He “*made us to be a kingdom*” (**Revelation 1:6**). Of the church Paul wrote, “*He ...gave Him to be head over all things to the church which is His body, the fullness of Him that fills all in all*” (**Ephesians 1:22-23**).

**By Jim Wilsford**

## MORE THOUGHTS ON CONTENTMENT

The story is told of a time when Abraham Lincoln (before he was President) was walking through town with two of his young sons. The two boys were crying and visibly unhappy. A friend stopped Mr. Lincoln and asked him what was wrong with the two boys, to which he supposedly replied, “Exactly what’s wrong with the whole world...I have three walnuts and each boy wants two.”

To some degree, we can all identify with this story. We live in a world that is consumed with consuming. Even though Jesus taught that life does not consist in the abundance of our possessions (**Luke 12:15**), we continue to live as though it does. We know what it is to be always spending but never satisfied.

Years ago, the comic Flip Wilson used to do a satirical bit of comedy known as “The Church of What’s Happening Now.” More recently, a theologian by the name of Mark Buchanan wrote a short piece called, “The Cult of the Next Thing.”

I belong to the Cult of the Next Thing. It’s dangerously easy to get enlisted. It happens by default – not by choosing the cult, but by failing to resist it. The Cult of the Next Thing is consumerism cast in religious terms. It has its own litany of sacred words: more, you deserve it, new, faster, cleaner, brighter. It has its own deep-rooted liturgy: charge it, instant credit, no down-payment, deferred payment, no interest for three months. It has its own preachers, evangelists, prophets, and apostles: ad men, pitchmen, and celebrity sponsors. It has, of course, its own shrines, chapels, temples, meccas: malls, superstores, club warehouses. It has its own sacraments: credit and debit cards. It has its own ecstatic experience: the spending spree. The Cult of the Next Thing’s central message proclaims, “Crave and spend, for the Kingdom of Stuff is here.”

Rather than being content with what we have, we always crave something else.

The fact is, if we needed different “things” or gifts to enable us to glorify and serve God, He would provide them for us (**Matthew 6:33-34**). But we are currently right where we need to be. We have all that we truly need to have. God is calling upon us to glorify Him right now! Instead of saying, “If only I had this” or “If only I had that” we should be serving Him in this, our current situation!

After many trials and hardships, Paul learned the lesson of contentment: “*I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me*” (**Philippians 4:11-13**).

May we all be satisfied and content with what our God has provided for us.

May we all be completely satisfied with our God. He is all we need.