



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

August 19, 2012

P.O. Box 416  
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.  
Rockwood, TN 37854  
865-354-0855

**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:**

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**Website:**

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## THE “SINNER’S PRAYER”

Millions of tracts have been distributed in hospitals, restaurants, etc., with some version of “the sinner’s prayer.” There are many differing versions, since this “prayer” is man-made and is not to be found in the Bible. The Bible makes it very clear that prayer is the privilege of Christians, not alien sinners (**Matthew 6:9; I Peter 3:12**).

God has no children outside of His family who can call Him Father. One must be “in Christ” to be called a son or daughter of God. To be in Christ means to be in His church or body (**II Corinthians 6:17-18; Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18**). All must enter into Christ in the same way, by faith, repentance, confession, and baptism, but not prayer (**John 8:24; Luke 13:3; Matthew 10:32-33; Mark 15:15-16**). The first thing a sinner needs to do is obey – not pray (**Hebrews 5:8-9**). Yet, there are some religious folks who do not teach God’s desires for all men to be saved in His appointed way (**I Timothy 2:4**). It gives the lost a false security to think they are saved by merely saying, “Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Son of God and that you died on the cross for my sins to save me from eternal death. I open the door of my life and receive you as my Savior and Lord. I give you my life. Help me to be what you want me to be. Amen.”

Peter, by the Holy Spirit’s guidance, told lost souls on Pentecost to obey, rather than pray (**Acts 2:38**). What Peter said then and what men say today does not match. Peter is right, men are wrong. Upon the command to “*repent and be baptized*” for their salvation, the Bible says they that “*gladly received the word were baptized*” and the Lord added them to the church (**Acts 2:41, 47**). They then continued in prayer (**Acts 2:42**).

The Bible says “*God hears not sinners*” (**John 9:31**), “*He is far from the wicked*” (**Proverbs 15:9**), “the sinner’s prayer” is an abomination (**Proverbs 28:9**), and that the face of the Lord is against evil doers (**Psalms 34:16; I Peter 3:12**). We hope that these thoughts will encourage men to come into Christ, His church, where they may have the blessing of prayer as children of God. The “sinner’s prayer” cannot be found in the pages of the New Testament.

**Gary Colley**

## AHHH...THE POWER OF GOD

It never fails to amaze me. How God can work in our lives. He can work in the lives of all people. I suppose one of the things that I struggle with in regard to our brotherhood is that sometimes we put shutters over our eyes when it comes to the power of God in the eyes of those we think are beyond help. It's not a new development.

Throughout scripture there were people who refused to believe that God could work in the lives of people that they didn't feel were worthy of God's attention. Jesse didn't believe that David was the king that God was looking for when Samuel came to visit. The Pharisees didn't believe that the woman "caught" in adultery was worthy of God's grace. The Israelites didn't believe Moses would be able to lead them out of slavery in Egypt when God had commanded him to do it. And, of course, the Jews did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God.

My question is, always, why. Why is it that we refuse to believe that God can work in someone's life? Is it because we feel they don't deserve it? I suspect it's because we feel better than them. We look down on them maybe. The truth is this: Jesus came to seek and save the lost. He came to attend to those who needed a physician. He came for the sick, not the healthy. The irony is those who are "healthy" refuse to do the same. They would rather condemn. They would rather lift themselves up instead of lifting up others. They would compromise the needs of those who need help in order to satisfy their own selfish nature.

*"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to."* When I read **Matthew's** account (**23**) of the seven woes I'm reminded that I need to do my best not to look down on others. At the same time, I can't sacrifice what I know to be right. Hard to manage, you bet. But I must try.

I know I'm not perfect, never have been, and I'll never be. But I also know God has done some really beautiful things in my life and it would be more of a shame, more of an evil, more disgusting... (I could keep going), for me not to share that because I am weak and fail then it would be for me to share it in order to encourage others because of His power that is at work in me.

Our challenge, my challenge, your challenge is to realize that God can work power, beauty, and might in the lives of all people. Whether we choose to accept, realize, or acknowledge it! Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in EVERYONE.

**Lee Lewis**