



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

August 26, 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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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

ATTEND IF CONVENIENT

Attendance on Sunday morning worship is so encouraging, especially at times. Sunday evening and Wednesday evening attendance is so discouraging and depressing. Many tragically forsake the Lord, coming only on Sunday morning or when convenient.

Service and faithfulness to Almighty God is NOT something that we can “put on” or “take off” as a piece of clothing. Worship...is not an optional matter (**John 4:24**). Loyalty to God is not a seasonal involvement. Neither is our worship to Him to be a matter of “if convenient” or “if nothing else comes up or prevents us.”

Tragically some who profess to be dedicated and loyal allow visitors in their homes to keep them away from worship on the Lord's day. Others allow hunting season, football games, golf trips, vacations or whatever comes along to divert their attention and supposed faithfulness to their Lord.

Do not fool yourself! Do not be blind as to think that others do not see your actions for what they are – neglect, unfaithfulness and sinful action.

Your children learn that God is important ONLY IF nothing else more important comes along. They grow up to believe that “God will understand” if we are not there since we are traveling, company came unexpected, or this is a very special game. The facts are – God does not understand, accept nor tolerate such “second place action” from His servants. He demands first place and will not be second, third or forty-second (**Matthew 6:33**)!

Your friends see your actions and know that God really is not that important to you, as much as other things. You may have invited them to worship, encouraged them to become a Christian, talked to them about going to heaven – but by your actions they learn you are mostly **TALK** and very little **WALK**.

Folks, “if the shoe fits, wear it” - change, stop, no longer forsake the assembling...Sunday morning, Sunday evening, Wednesday evening or whenever the saints assemble. Your failure to attend worship shows where your priorities reside, where your true love is and where you are settling your affections (**John 14:15; Colossians 3:1-4**).

Most of us can appreciate the value of our own souls or the souls of our loved ones, but it is someone else's soul that we do not know. One of the essential ingredients in our lives as we grow toward God is to care for a soul, even one we do not know.

Paul Sain

THINGS THAT DON'T LOVE YOU BACK

Last weekend was a truly wonderful time for me. I was away on vacation, and it proved to be one of the more amazing times of my life. One unexpected pleasure came on Sunday morning when several of my instructors spoke briefly about faith. One in particular brought up things that matter and things that don't. Specifically, among the things that don't, he placed anything that is of the world.

John cautioned that we *"Do not love the world or the things in the world."* (**I John 2:15**). The way Lyle phrased it Sunday morning was that he learned not to love things that don't love you back. He has every right to speak along those lines. He has enjoyed a good measure of worldly success and is considered to be one of the best in the world at what he does. Yet, he has learned, and quickly acknowledges, that worldly success is vain if we fail spiritually.

Generation after generation goes through it... the desire to conquer the world. And God certainly allows some to do so in various ways and degrees. But when those victories are won, what do they leave us? A trophy? It will tarnish. Our name in a record book? It's written in pencil. A bigger bank account? One way or another it will be passed on to someone else. Trophies, notoriety, and wealth are not bad in themselves, but loving them is vain because they will never love you back.

Your family will love you back. God has called upon men to be first and foremost the leaders of families (**Genesis 1:28**), to be godly husbands (**Ephesians 5:23**) and to be godly fathers (**Ephesians 6:1**). Similarly, He has called women to be godly wives (**I Corinthians 7:14**) and mothers (**Titus 2:3-5**). No one desires to love you back like your family does. Take on your responsibilities in a godly manner and you will be loved back.

Your friends and neighbors will love you back. Solomon reminds us that *"A man who has friends must himself be friendly"* (**Proverbs 18:24**). There are some real jerks out there who will take advantage of your friendship because they love those things that don't love them back. But be a friend anyway. Most people will learn to appreciate your kindness, and will love you back.

Truly, above any and all others, God will love you back. God is one of the greatest truths ever revealed. It was the Christ Himself who said, *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* (**John 3:16**). Come to appreciate how great the love of God is and you will find yourself appreciating life all the more. We know He will love us back, because He actually loved us first (**I John 4:19**). In fact, *"God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us"* (**Romans 5:8**).

In spite of the great love of family, friends, and the Creator, many choose to love things that can never love them back. Our "dumb idols" (**I Corinthians 12:2**) are many and they can have a strong hold on us. But they have no love, nor even fondness, towards us. The simple truth is that to those things that cannot love you back you mean nothing, but to those that can love you back you are everything!

Tom Lynch