



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

December 16, 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

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

BE SET FREE!

On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "*Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.*" Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God. **Luke 13:10-13.**

Imagine spending eighteen years in a twisted body. What discomfort and pain she must have experienced. Not to mention inconvenience. Luke does not indicate that she requested healing. Instead, he says Jesus noticed her and summoned her to approach Him. He spoke the sweetest words she had ever heard – "*Woman, you are set free!*"

Free at last! Free from her crippled form. Free of the evil spirit that had caused her condition. Free from the gawking stares of passersby. Free to live a life unhindered by past limitations. Free to fully praise God in ways she never could before. Freedom feels good!

Some witnesses to this event wanted to rob this woman of her freedom. They would rather force Jesus to uphold their manmade traditions than allow Him to set this woman free of her burden. They demanded to do God's work in their way and on their schedule. The Almighty refuses to let man tell Him what to do.

Jesus specializes in liberating people – from the penalty, the guilt, and the power of sin. We should allow Him to do what He does without arguing or trying to limit Him. He knows what He is doing.

Trust Him when He says, "*The truth will set you free.*" Believe Him when He says, "*Your sins are forgiven.*" Rest assured when He states, "*If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*"

Jay Hanley

WHAT BUILDS A STRONG CHURCH?

There are two divine institutions – the home and the church. A third institution exists with God’s approval – government. God desires strong homes and strong churches. Both are an honor to His name. Following are some things that will contribute to building strong churches:

Prayer builds strong churches: When Peter was released from prison by the angel of the Lord he went to a home where the church was gathered for prayer. *“So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying.”* **(Acts 12:12)** Our work will never be bigger than our prayers.

Friendliness builds strong churches: *“Let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels”* **(Hebrews 13:1-2)**. People who attend our assemblies should be overwhelmed with kindness and friendliness. Brethren should greet them with smiles, greeting and hand shakes in the parking lot, foyer, as they enter and leave the auditorium, and those that sit near them should give them special attention. When visitors leave our assemblies they should be glad they came to be a part of our church service.

Faithfulness builds strong churches: You may suffer for a little while, but if you will remain faithful to God the church will be strong and you will be blessed. *“Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”* **(Revelation 2:10)**. Those willing to teach God’s word, those that work and serve with Christ-like hearts build strong churches.

Liberality builds strong churches: The liberality spoken of here is liberality in giving, not in doctrine. Strong churches must be loyal to God’s word! Liberality in giving is a quality that builds strong churches. *“He who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness”* **(Romans 12:8)**.

Some members build the church. Others tear down what is built. Are you a builder? *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might”* **(Ephesians 6:10)**. Salvation is available through the precious blood of Jesus. Each person should obey the gospel of Jesus Christ **(Mark 16:15-16)** and endure faithfully to the end **(Matthew 10:22)**.

Charles Box