



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

December 25, 2011

P.O. Box 416  
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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

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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## CHRONIC PROCRASTINATORS

For the past few weeks, our children ask every morning while eating breakfast, “How many more days until Christmas?” One of them asked me the other day and I could finally say, “Only twenty-five more days until Christmas.” Now, I am writing this as a reminder to some who may be chronic procrastinators. What do I mean by “chronic procrastinator?” This describes a person who is constantly waiting until the last minute to do everything. We see the same thing every year; people who wait until the last minute to do their Christmas shopping (some times they wait so late until there is nothing left). You hear of some who have to go to Big John’s or another convenience store to find something to wrap and put under the tree.

Now you many ask, “What in the world does waiting until the last minute to buy presents have anything to do with spiritual things?” My answer: everything in the world! Stop and think for a moment of the same percentage of people who are living, spiritually speaking, as chronic procrastinators. They will wait until the very last minute (if possible) to make things right with God. Notice what the apostle Paul wrote: *“For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then suddenly destruction comes upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But you brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief” (I Thessalonians 5:2-4).*

Did not our Lord also teach that the Second Coming would be like a thief (**Matthew 24:42-44**)? So did the apostle Peter (**II Peter 3:10**). Why do people delay the inevitable (shopping for presents, studying for tests or even filing their taxes)? We keep deceiving ourselves that we have all the time in the world. That same old lie has been peddled by Satan for centuries. We think that we have all the time in the world to respond to the gospel; we think we have enough time to repent and come back to the Lord. But how many are there like old Felix who are looking for a more “*convenient time*” (**Acts 24:25**)? How many prodigals do we know of who never return home (or should I say, procrastinate until it is too late)?

Don’t be a chronic procrastinator! The Bible teaches that there is danger and death in waiting too long. Life as James says is truly a vapor – here today and gone tomorrow. May God help us all to resolve in the coming year to live in such a way so as to be “doers” of God’s will and not procrastinators!

**Randy Neal**

## NEW TRICKS OR AN OLD RUGGED CROSS?

John Holmes said something about people and dogs that caused my mental wheels to whirl when I read it. See what you think – “A dog is not ‘almost human’ and I know of no greater insult to the canine race than to describe it as such.” Sounds like Holmes may be a little sour on the human race. But before you totally dismiss his statement, read the following story (author unknown) and think about it. A man emailed a hotel to see if his dog would be allowed to stay there with him. He received the following answer: “Dear Sir, I have been in the hotel business for over 30 years. Not once during that time have I ever had to call in the police to evict a disorderly dog in the wee hours of the morning. No dog has ever attempted to pass off a bad check on me. Never has a dog set the bedding on fire because he smoked in the bed. And I have yet to find a hotel towel in a dog’s suitcase. Your dog is most welcome at our hotel. P.S. – if the dog will vouch for you, you can come, too.” Okay. I know the story is a little goofy, and it may be overreaching to make a point. But there is a point in the story – it is humans, not dogs, who sin and make a moral and spiritual mess in the world God created for us to live in together. Daily headlines remind us we live in a badly fractured and fallen world. Instead of peace there is war; instead of love, hatred; instead of harmony, hostility; instead of acceptance, rejection; and instead of kindness, there is often killing in one form or another. The borders and barriers that divide and hold human beings apart in homes and communities and nations are not just physical. Sin separates people from God. And race, religion, class, caste, breed, place, face, prejudice and pride divide and sometimes cause people to do awful things to each other. Is there any reason to hope for real change in such a fragmented world? Can hostile people learn to come together and live in peace and harmony in spite of the physical, philosophical and verbal and/or emotional barriers and borders that have divided so badly for so long?

Some people don’t think so. You hear this conviction in the old expression, “You can’t teach an old dog new tricks.” On hearing this as an excuse not to change for the better, one lady said to the speaker, “So isn’t it good we are not old dogs?!” The Gospel holds out prospects not only for the possibility people can change but also for the power that brings it about. In speaking about the intense hatred and hostility that existed between Jews and Gentiles, the apostle Paul wrote these stunning words in **Ephesians 2:14-16**.

*“For He Himself (Jesus Christ) is our peace, who hath made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandment contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.”*

God’s way of bringing warring people together is not to teach them new tricks. His way is to bring them to an old rugged cross. If you come closer to Christ and His will, and I do the same thing, will we not be coming closer to each other? The question is are we willing to come closer to Christ? Think about it.

**Dan Gulley**