



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

December 9, 2012

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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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## THE LOVE OF GOD

We should never be able to get enough of **John 3:16**. It is a common Scripture in the New Testament, and one the most in the church can recite readily. Imagine, *“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”* I do not seek to perish in a lost spiritual condition...I overwhelmingly choose to grasp eternal life with God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit.

*“For I am the Lord, I do not change...”* states **Malachi 3:6**. Just imagine, God’s love is unchangeable. It is always available for those who desire it. The heavenly Father is a constant *“Friend”* who sticks closer than a brother, **Proverbs 18:24**. The great prophet **Jeremiah** expressed that God loves us with *“everlasting love,”* chapter **31:3**. Oh, what assurance and confidence followers of God should possess!

Sometimes I consider how lost and scattered, *“...like sheep going astray”* errant man was before the Savior shed His blood on the cross for each of us. Accepting His love we *“...now have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls,”* **I Peter 2:25**. The apostle Paul explains, *“God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us,”* **Romans 5:8**. Man often boasts of deeds; God exhibited this love by giving His only Son.

God’s love has wrought the availability to man a promise of *“everlasting life.”* In this magnificent place called Heaven, sin will be no more. **Revelation 19:4-5** reads, *“And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshipped God who sat on the throne, saying, ‘Amen! Alleluia!’ Then a voice came from the throne, saying, ‘Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!’”*

May we daily immerse our lives, our souls in God’s wonderful love!

**Charles D. Beebe**

## DECOMMITTED

That's the word they used, decommitted. I'm not even sure it is a word. My trusty spell checker doesn't recognize it, but it doesn't recognize a lot of things I type.

The context of the use of that word had to do with a young man who must be a really good football player. He had apparently "committed" to play football at a certain university next year. It has now been announced that he "decommitted" and will visit another university. He wanted everybody to know that the original school was "still in the running" but it seems that he would like to take a look at the other school (or maybe several other schools). Only one school can offer what the school he intends to visit can offer; a chance to play for this past year's national champions.

Maybe that's what is attracting him. Maybe this other school is closer to his home. Maybe he has close friends who play there. I didn't hear or care enough about the story to know why he's made the decision to decommit.

Maybe, like a lot of other people in our society, this young man has never learned the meaning of commitment. Apparently, his "world" is the "sports world." He certainly wouldn't learn much about commitment in that environment. How often do you hear about an athlete, coach, or manager whose entire career is spent with one team? How many times a year are "multi-year contracts" torn up (at least figuratively) when circumstances change?

Sadly, this is not confined to the world of athletics. It seems that, in almost every area of our lives, people are deciding to "decommit." Often, the couple who promises to remain together in sickness and in health, etc., will do just that until some circumstances change. Then, the most attractive option is to decommit. There used to be a level of commitment between employers and employees, but that no longer seems to be the case. It is much easier for one or both parties to decommit.

Our Lord knows about decommitment all too well. He's seen far too many people become Christians and begin their lives as Christians really well; only to decommit when the going got rough, when something that seemed more attractive came along, or for some other reason.

The level of commitment may not be a big deal to many today, but it sure seems to be important to the One who, while addressing the subject of oaths, said: "...let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'..." (**Matthew 5:37**).

**Jim Faughn**