



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

February 17, 2013

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:**

rockwdcc@earthlink.net

**Website:**

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## THE HIGH COST OF LIVING

It seems like every time I get ready to do something, it costs me more to do everything. Fuel costs go up. Medical expenses go up. Food costs go up. Housing costs go up. The cost of living goes up and up. It seems like there is no end to the rising cost of living. Sometimes one wonders why people don't just throw up their hands in disgust and say I'm not paying these outrageous prices. And yet despite the high cost of living, have you noticed that living is still a highly regarded activity?

We as people seek to live the very best life that we can and the costs don't seem to matter. We live in the best houses we can afford. We drive the best cars we can afford. We buy more shoes than we can wear in a lifetime. We expect the most aggressive and expensive medical care in the world. We may complain about the cost, but we keep on expecting the best.

What is someone told you that you could have the best possible life and the costs would be minimal? You would probably call them crazy. Jesus said, **(John 10:10)** *"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to lull, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."* Albert Barnes observed in his commentary "Literally, that they may have abundance, or that which abounds." The word denotes that which is not absolutely essential to life, but which is superadded to make life happy. They shall not merely have life – simple, bare existence – but they shall have all those superadded things which are needful to make that life eminently blessed and happy. Jesus makes it possible to live an abundant life that is blessed and happy, and it costs the same as it did 2000 years ago. No cost of living increase.

**Ken Hamilton**

# THE KEY WHICH OPENS THE DOOR OF SALVATION

I stand amazed at how men respond when confronted about doing right. Some think they have the right to ignore what the Lord said and just rely on His grace to take care of them. Others seek to minimize obedience by saying that devotion to keeping His commandments is legalism and seeking salvation by works. In spite of such efforts to turn attention away from the Biblical emphasis on obeying God, the truth is that God ties our spiritual blessings and our hope of heaven to keeping the commandments.

**To enter into life – keep the commandments.** Jesus told the young man who asked about salvation, *“If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments”* (**Matthew 19:14**). The Lord tied salvation to obedience. Who has the right to untie it?

**To love Jesus – keep the commandments.** Hear the Master, *“If you love Me, keep My commandments”* (**John 14:15**). Love is shown by obedience. Now who said that keeping His commandments is seeking salvation by legalistic works?

**To abide in Jesus’ love – keep the commandments.** *“If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love”* (**John 15:10**). What if I ignore His commandments?

**To show the Lord that we know the Lord – keep His commandments.** People sometimes ask, *“Do you know the Lord as your personal Savior?”* The Bible says, *“By this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments”* (**I John 2:3**). When we think of the salvation of our souls, the most important question of life, we must not look to an inward feeling. The test is whether we are doing what He says! John says that every person who simply says that he knows the Lord and does not obey Him is a liar (**I John 2:4**)!

**To have prayers answered – keep the commandments.** John described the blessing of answered prayers and its relation to obedience. *“Whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments”* (**I John 3:22**). The word because, used in this verse, joins answering of prayers to listening to the Lord. Before He listens to us, we must listen to Him!

**To love God – keep His commandments.** *“This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments”* (**I John 5:3**). Think of how many, when asked, will say that they love the Lord. It is not what they say, it is what they **do**.

May we never be guilty of minimizing obedience. Jesus is the author of eternal salvation to those who obey Him (**Hebrews 5:9**). It is the key that opens the door to our salvation.