



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

January 15, 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:

rockwdcc@earthlink.net

### Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## FEAR VS. FAITH FEAR NOT

One of my favorite bumper stickers reads, "Do not fear what the future holds, for God holds the future." Knowing that God is in control should remove all of our fears and build faith.

Jesus addressed our fears and gave us a reason to overcome fear. Jesus promised, "*I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*" (**Matthew 28:20**). Knowing that the creator of the universe is with us is a comfort and strength. With such a promise, we can take courage, as Joshua was encouraged to do in **Joshua 1:9**, "*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.*" The Hebrew writer put it this way. "*Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you. So we may boldly say: The LORD is my helper, I will not fear. What can man do to me?*" (**Hebrews 13:5-6**).

The worst that can happen to us is death, and Jesus addressed that. His own victory over death frees us from the fear of death (**Hebrews 2:14-15; I Cor. 15**). It gave Paul great confidence when facing death; even anticipation (**Phil. 1:21-23**).

Faith in Jesus even removes the fear of what comes after death. In **John 14:1-3** Jesus comforted His disciples with the promise of what lies ahead and Paul could look forward to what he would receive because he had "*kept the faith*" (**II Tim. 4:6-8**). When we've overcome these fears through faith in Jesus, other fears will seem petty!

1. When His disciples were fearful of the storm at sea – **Matt. 5:23-27**.
2. When Peter faltered as he went to Jesus walking on the water – **Matt. 14:25-33**.
3. As Jesus taught them not to have fearful anxiety concerning the necessities of life – **Luke 12:27-32**.

As someone put it: "FEAR IS – SIMPLY UNBELIEF PARADING IN DISGUISE."

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of discipline" **II Timothy 1:7**.

Allan Lay

## A CASUAL CONVERSATION

This week I had a casual conversation with a guy. We visited for quite a while, and as I usually try to do when I meet a new friend, I invited him to come and worship with us.

That opened a new line of conversation this time with a Bible emphases. As the conversation proceeded, he made a common comment that I have heard many times before. It can take many forms but usually goes something like this, “After all we’re all striving to go to the same place.”

I know its not the first time that I have heard someone say something similar to this, but this time it got me to thinking and pondering. You know there are always two sides to everything, so let’s take a moment and look at the flip side.

If I understand what folks are saying when they use this phraseology, they are saying it doesn’t matter where or how you worship God.

When asked, most everyone will agree that the Bible is our guide book for life and religious instruction. If that is the case and I believe that it is, we should look to the Bible for the answer to the question. Let’s take a look at what the Bible says.

*“Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy by thy name, and by thy name cast out demons, and by thy name do many mighty works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” (Matthew 7:21-23).*

Now if I understand this passage correctly, not everyone, even if they are striving to do good, are going to make it to heaven. Isn’t that the way you read it?

So, in the same line of thinking, does it matter how we worship God? I have heard some say that they worship God in their own way and in their own time. Still others, go to different “church” services because it is what they like and what makes them feel good.

What does the Bible say about the kind of worship God wants. *“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:23-24).*

Hmmm! From this portion of Scripture is it teaching that we can worship God any way we please? It seems to me that we must worship Him in the truth. That is the true way that He has prescribed for us to do so.

It all boils down to this, I believe. The way man is to get to heaven, or the way that man is to worship God, must be on God’s terms and not man’s way. For man’s way is full of whim and laziness.

For God is the creator and we are His creation. Therefore, let us remember our place and strive to worship Him and get to heaven His way.