



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

January 1, 2012

P.O. Box 416  
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.  
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  
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:**

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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## LET'S GET SERIOUS

By Tom Lynch

Well, here we go again. We are starting off a new year. Suppose that rather than joking around, we get serious instead? How about making 2012 your year to finally get serious?

### Get Serious About Our Relationship with Christ

You don't want a lukewarm relationship with Christ, do you? He certainly doesn't want a lukewarm relationship with you. He wants you to be on fire, not merely lukewarm. *"So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth"* (Revelation 3:16).

### Get Serious About Forgiveness

An awful lot of us are carrying around grudges. I know as well as any how it feels to be offended and have our feelings hurt. And what I know is that it feels much better to get past it. None of us really have the right to demand forgiveness from God. But by accepting forgiveness we become obliged to offer forgiveness *"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."* (Matthew 6:14-15).

### Get Serious About THAT Sin

You know the one. You've been struggling with it for quite a while. And sometimes you do pretty well with it. But you keep going back. Maybe it's lying, gossiping, looking at inappropriate material, profanity, or any number of other things. You feel like you should be able to handle it, but you aren't. Okay, then get serious and take it to Christ who can free you from it. *"And having been set free from sin you become slaves of righteousness"* (Romans 6:18).

### Get Serious About Mediocrity

No one strives to be mediocre. Actually it's only achieved without effort. The Bible presents excellence! An excellent savior, an excellent relationship, an excellent plan, an excellent prize, and so much more. Christ offers excellence so that we can achieve excellence. *"But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way"*

So how about it? Will you make 2012 a time to get serious?

# FIGHT!

Have you heard the soldiers marching through the streets? They have fought valiantly with the weapons they carry. Few have fallen; only the disloyal defected to defeat. The marching soldiers are only passing through. We look on in awe of their ancient armor polished so neat. Who are these brave souls, these volunteers recruited to the most effective military in God's great creation?

Soldiers of Christ! They fight the good fight. Their arsenal is not meant for worldly engagement, but is built to withstand the Devil and his demonic force.

In the carnal world, brave men and women go to places like Afghanistan or Iraq. But in the Lord's Army, we fight a war that is not of this world, wherever we are. We needn't travel. We simply go into the world that is around us.

*“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (II Cor. 10:3-5).*

Their Captain commands “Go ye...” which translates “Go we...” These fierce souls are in combat together. The church is their foxhole, and the breaking of communal bread is their hope's claim. They have taken the “*helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God*” (Ephesians 6:17).

Avoiding death, there are two things any soldier is concerned about – cover and concealment. To the enlisted the Spirit says, “*your life is hidden with Christ in God*” (Colossians 3:3). Christian soldiers are concealed to the extent that God protects them from being tempted more than one can withstand in the trying moments (I Corinthians 10:13). We also have the perfect cover to protect us from “*all fiery darts of the wicked one*” (Ephesians 6:16). Faith is the shield.

Through the annals of time, cannons replaced archers. M-16's replaced swords, and Kevlar replaced forged armor. In all the advancements of humankind, one ancient arsenal remains; it shall eternally be stronger than any weaponry of this world. We have one Commander in Chief who is our one Captain of Salvation, who leads the battle cry to all valiant Christians, young or old. “*Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word*” (Acts 8:4). **Be brave. Be bold. Enlist in the Lord's Army!**

**Donny Weimar**