



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

January 27, 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

## WASTED EFFORT?

Did you ever have the feeling that after all was said and done, that all the talking and working had been wasted? Most people seem to have some experience of this sort from time to time. Yet, the Lord reminded His followers, *"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing"* (**John 15:5**). The apostle Paul expressed a similar idea in these words: *"Therefore, My beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord"* (**I Corinthians 15:58**). Toil in the Lord is never wasted effort, no matter whether we see the immediate results we would hope for or not. To teach a lost person and to have him reject the Gospel is not a wasted effort. It is never in vain to do God's will. To encourage a weak Christian to remain faithful and see that person turn away from Christ and His church is not a wasted effort. You have shown your love for God and for your neighbor. You have obeyed God. These are never wasted efforts. Jesus died for all men, yet some will not come to Him for salvation. Yet, who would say that His sacrifice on the cross was a wasted effort?

It is human nature to get tired of doing anything that is not going as we expected. Therefore God has encouraged us, *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up"* (**Galatians 6:9**). Doing good is doing God's will. We must not give up on doing good because God will reward us at the proper time. *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord."*

*"Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve"* (**Colossians 3:23-24**).

**Richard McWilliams**

# PANCAKES

Six-year-old Brandon decided one Saturday morning to fix his parents pancakes. He found a big bowl and spoon, pulled a chair to the counter, opened the cupboard and pulled out the heavy flour canister, spilling it on the floor.

He scooped some of the flour into the bowl with his hands, mixed in most of a cup of milk and added some sugar, leaving a floury trail on the floor which by now had a few tracks left by his kitten.

Brandon was covered with flour and getting frustrated. He wanted this to be something very good for Mom and Dad, but it was getting very bad.

He didn't know what to do next, whether to put it all into the oven or on the stove (and he didn't know how the stove worked!).

Suddenly he saw his kitten licking the bowl of mix and reached to push her away, knocking the egg carton to the floor. Frantically he tried to clean up this monumental mess but slipped on the eggs, getting his pajamas white and sticky.

And just then he saw Dad standing at the door. Big crocodile tears welled up in Brandon's eyes.

All he'd wanted to do was something good, but he'd made a terrible mess. He was sure a scolding was coming, maybe even a spanking. But his father just watched him. Then, walking through the mess, he picked up his crying son, hugged him and loved him, getting his own pajamas white and sticky in the process.

That's how God deals with us. We try to do something good in life, but it turns into a mess. Our marriage gets all sticky or we insult a friend, or we neglected a certain Christian duty, or our health goes sour. Sometimes we just stand there in tears because we can't think of anything else to do. That's when God picks us up and loves us and forgives us, even though some of our mess gets all over Him. *"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness: but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."* **(II Peter 3:9).**

But just because we might mess up, we can't stop trying to "make pancakes" for God or for others. Sooner or later we'll get it right and then they'll be glad we tried. Paul said, *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."* **(I Corinthians 15:58).**

**Tom Moore**