



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

July 22, 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:

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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

I GET NOTHING OUT OF WORSHIP!

Recently I attended a workshop and the facilitator mentioned how he had been contacting members within the congregation with irregular attendance, asking why they do not attend worship service and Bible study regularly; some indicated that they “got nothing from the worship.” Of course, my question is “what did they put into it!”

If this statement had come from someone who was totally ignorant of all things pertaining to the Bible, it would be understandable that they “got nothing from the worship.” Of much more concern are those in the kingdom, some for years, who still would state, “I get so little out of worship!” We get something out when we put something in! There is no excuse for a child of God to come to worship and study with **nothing, putting in nothing, and then expecting something!**

Just think of these points, as I approach worship and study as a child of God.

- ❖ Every song sung can remind me of Biblical truths and my need to feel more appreciation for God’s efforts for me.
- ❖ Every Bible verse given in classes and worship has a lesson for me, and should remind me of similar verses, and especially of my own need to know more of the Bible.
- ❖ Everything expressed in prayer should remind me of my own blessings, and of my own praying and how I can improve it.
- ❖ Every point made in song, prayer, and remarks at the Lord’s Table should cause me to be more thankful for the sacrifice of Christ, and make me more appreciative of His death and blood shed.
- ❖ Participation in giving to the Lord’s cause should awaken in me greater appreciation and love for the kingdom, its work, and for the part I can have in it.

Even in the announcements made, I can see opportunities for service in seeing to the sick, shut-ins, and bereaved, to say nothing of opportunities to greet and welcome visitors and newcomers.

Getting nothing out of service? For shame! The fact is, I get something **when** and if I put in something! If I come to worship with an empty bucket, want nothing in it, and by lack of interest block anything that starts to enter it, I will leave with an empty bucket! Keep it up, and the bottom will rust out completely.

By Alonza D. Winston, Sr.

THE MEASURE OF SUCCESS

Some time ago, I heard a motivational speaker give a talk to a group of young people. In the course of the speech, reference was made to a specific occupation, and describing the people that have chosen this career, the speaker said, "They are very successful. They make the big bucks!"

Wow! In a brief, yet succinct way, this person communicated that having lots of money is what makes one successful in life. Of course, there is nothing wrong with having a good job and a good salary. That we are to work to sustain our existence is God's will for us. Paul reminded the Thessalonians, "*For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. It was not because we do not have the right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: if anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.*" (**II Thessalonians 3:7-10**). He also reminded Timothy, "*But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever*" (**I Timothy 5:8**).

There is, however, more to life than this. When one expands his or her view of life to consider eternity, then success must be measured by more than just material prosperity. Jesus said, "*One's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions*" (**Luke 12:15**). To his disciples He asked, "*For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*" (**Matthew 16:26**).

Success from a worldly standpoint is one thing, but in view of heaven and hell, success must be viewed from a spiritual perspective. Nothing can compare to the glory, beauty, and joy of heaven. **Nothing can compare to the pain, suffering, and eternity of hell.** In the final analysis, success must be defined in light of God's judgment.

There is nothing wrong with being viewed a success by your peers, whether in a career, finances, or lifestyle, if Christ is Lord of these things in your life. Without Him, none of these things can be regarded as a success. With Him, there is a promise for today and tomorrow. "*Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed*" (**I Timothy 6:17-19**).

Robert Johnson