



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

July 29, 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

## “ILLEGAL CITIZENS”

One of the major controversies in our country is what to do about the many who are in this country illegally. We do have laws that tell how one can become an American citizen, but some choose not to obey the rules. Thus, they remain illegal but at the same time they are able to enjoy most or all the benefits of being a true citizen. It seems everybody hates the U.S. but given a chance, they want to come here.

Our politicians seem to be totally perplexed by the situation. Some want to give all of them amnesty and make them full citizens. Others want to “round ‘em up and head ‘em out” to their own country.

This whole situation reminds me of those who want to go to heaven, but don’t want to follow the “rules” which Christ set down for becoming a “citizen” of His kingdom. Many prefer to make up their own “rules” for heavenly citizenship – thus they feel they can enjoy the benefits without fuss or bother. The scribes and Pharisees were like that, and Jesus called them hypocrites, serpents, blind guides and murderers (**Matthew 23:13-35**).

One example of changing Jesus’ “rules” is the teaching that repeating the “sinner’s prayer” is all one needs to do to go to heaven. Never mind the fact that neither Christ nor His apostles ever told anyone that was what to do to be saved. Jesus stated that only those who do His Father’s will can enter the kingdom (**Matthew 7:21**).

Jesus said, “*If you love Me, keep My commandments*” (**John 14:15**). If there are commandments (rules) for being a Christian, then we **MUST** follow those rules if we want to be a true citizen. Those rules are in the New Testament – not in some man’s notion or some decision made by a council or convention of delegates.

**Christ is King.** He has all authority (**Matthew 28:18**). He is neither perplexed by what He gave as rules for citizenship in heaven, or what to do with “illegal Christians.” As the righteous Judge He knows who is a “true” citizen of His kingdom and who is not.

I would not count on amnesty on the **Day of Judgment!**

**John K. Wills**

## “AS HIS CUSTOM WAS...”

The simple definition of a habit is an action which is repeated often until it is the “natural behavior in one’s life.” There are those habits which are good, those which are neutral and those which hinder us in our development. Think of the power of habitually doing that which is right, almost without thinking, because we have trained ourselves to always do that which is right. Take time to look at one of the habits of Jesus’ life.

**His custom was always to worship God.** After His baptism and His temptation in the wilderness, Jesus began His public life. He returned to the town where He had been raised. *“So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day...” (Luke 4:16).* Did you notice those words in the text “as His custom was”? It was the Sabbath day, the day the Jews gathered for worship. Where was He? Had you been around Him you would have immediately known where to find him. It was the Sabbath – Jesus was at the place He always was on that day.

**His custom to worship began early in His life.** This custom to worship began even before He had an awareness of where He was. It began when, as infant, His mom and dad, on the day appointed by God, brought Him to the temple. Luke describes that day, *“And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law” (Luke 2:27).* Think about the importance of this statement. From infancy His parents lived to obey God, and Jesus was reared in a home where it was customary to serve and worship Him. Parents, if your child has to ask, “Are we going to worship or Bible classes, you are sinning against your child!”

**His custom to worship continued into His adolescent years.** *“And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast” (Luke 2:42).* Years later, when the God-appointed feast day arrived, where would you expect to find Jesus? You know the answer. This verse gives insight into why He was there. It was His habit, His custom - in infancy, in adolescence and in adulthood. His custom was always to worship and serve God.

**Some in the first century had another custom.** God commanded the early church, *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some...” (Hebrews 10:25).* The saints of the early church assembled to worship, to learn, to sit at the feet of Jesus. Jesus was there (**Matthew 18:20**), but some had a habit of not assembling!

Two customs about worship – which one is yours?