



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

June 10, 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

A REFRESHING BREEZE

On the farm, whenever a crop needed to be gathered, we didn't start to work by the clock but by the sun. We were often waiting in the field for it to be light enough to work.

Although the light to work by was welcomed, it was not long after the sun was up that the heat rose as well. In humid East Texas in July and August especially it didn't take much of the sun for the temperature to climb.

However, where our farm was situated, about 9 to 10 o'clock every morning a pleasant east breeze blew across the fields. I wouldn't say that it essentially lowered the temperature, but it made us feel cooler. In comparison to the heat of a dead calm, to us, it was like turning on an air conditioner.

Almost every time this happened someone among us would make note of the relief, we might pause for a moment, reap the brief comfort and then get back to work.

Oh, the enjoyment of a refreshing breeze!

It's too bad that we've moved so far away from such simple pleasures of life. In nature there are countless gifts of God to refresh the laborer and invigorate the weary. The rays of a warming sun in winter, the fresh scent of flowers in spring, gentle breezes in summer and crisp mornings of fall are just samplings of the mercy of God that embellishes the lives of all men.

In **Acts 14:16-17**, about God it's written, *"In the generations gone by He permitted all the nations to go their own ways; and yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness."*

Found in nature is a witness of God!

For every problem in the lives of HIS followers, God provides a refreshing breeze. This breeze may not represent the solutions of our problems but the will and strength to endure. In creation there always blows a cooling breeze of God's presence and mercy, if we will only look for it, we will see it. If we will only receive it, we will be renewed by it.

Floyd Kaiser

GO GREEN

Derrick Coble

Go Green! Help the environment! This is the only world we have – take care of it!

People are so conscious of clean air, clean water and clean homes, but what about clean lives?

The earth is not our permanent home. We are just visiting as strangers and pilgrims (**Hebrews 11:13**). Even so, it seems that more people are concerned with chlorofluorocarbons than the church of Christ. Earth Day takes precedence over Sunday, pine trees over praying knees, critters over Christ, and dead water over living water!

Yes, this is our Father's world (**Psalms 24:1**) and we ought to take care of it. However, we have something else which belongs to our Father that is far more important than any dog or frog – an eternal soul (**Ezekiel 18:4**).

It is from the earth in which we have been made. It is where we live, eat, and where our bodies will return at death (**Ecclesiastes 12:7**). We are earthly people with earthly minds. We do not pretend to comprehend the nature of the heavenly, but we all “*desire a better country, that is, a heavenly*” (**Hebrews 11:16**). Yet, that heavenly country sometimes seems so far away.

Some speak of heaven as a diluted dream or a fanciful fairy tale. We might even catch ourselves wondering what it would be like “if we were there.”

Christian, you will be there (**Romans 8:1**)! Jesus said heaven is prepared and real. *If it were not real, He would have told us* (**John 14:1-3**). Jesus is the word, (**John 1:1, 14**) and the word is truth (**John 17:17**). Do you believe him?

Peter told us of “*an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you*” (**I Peter 1:4**).

Heaven is green. It has been green and will be green long after the earth is gone because nothing defiled or polluted will ever be there. Pollution comes from sin. The green life is one that abstains from the pollutions of the earthly world (**Acts 15:20; II Peter 2:20**), in order to enter the heavenly world.

That is the difference between the earthly and the heavenly man. Earthly-minded individuals focus on what that have done for themselves, but heavenly-minded individuals focus on what God has done for them (**Matthew 7:7-11; James 1:17**).

While in the body, we live amidst the crooked, perverse, and profane – Satan's sinful agents who detect and destroy. It is a tragic reminder of the earthly man and woman enticed to sin in the Garden of Eden (**Genesis 2-3**). Christians are mere earthly “Adams” dressed in the blood of Christ (**Galatians 3:27; Revelation 1:5**) with a living hope of bearing Christ's heavenly image.

The apostle Paul explained it by saying, “*The first man (Adam) is of the earth, earthly: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthly, such are they also that are earthly: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly*” (**I Corinthians 15:47-49**).

Thus, our earthly nature will not continue. We all have a dying earthly side and a living spiritual side. The earth and the physical body will not be everlasting (**II Peter 3:10**). However, the spirit is eternal (**Matthew 25:46**). Knowing this, what is really more important – a green earth that will not continue or a “green” spirit that will live forever? Are we focused on the earthly or the heavenly? Go Green! Clean up your life.