



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

March 4, 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

WHEN JESUS PRAYED

“When” Jesus prayed is of interest to me. For example, he prayed:

When He was baptized (**Luke 3:21**).

When members of his family died (**Matthew 14:4-23**).

When he was in the company of children (**Matthew 19:13**).

When He was selecting His apostles (**Luke 6:12-13**).

When He thought about His future, His death... (**Luke 9:28-31**).

When he was troubled to the point of tears (**Hebrews 5:7-8**).

When he was dying (**Luke 23:34, 46**).

Mind you, He was “the Son of God” but, still, there were times He sought refuge in talking to His Father. In that, we should take pause and comfort. In fact, His example alerts us to times that we might want to pray.

When we are baptized and want to make the most of a second chance...pray.

When we walk away from a grave feeling numb and alone, we need to remember that we are not .alone...pray.

When we are asked to touch tomorrow’s future by teaching a Bible class of little children...pray.

When we find ourselves up all night, tormented by some difficult decision...pray.

When we are disturbed about the uncertainties or the unpleasantness of tomorrow...pray.

When we are reminded of our fragility and consequently bathe our cheeks with sorrow...pray.

When we face our own death, wouldn’t it be wonderful if our last words were the words of prayer?

In the words of Jesus, “*Ye ought always to pray*” (**Luke 18:1**). Remember, with prayer “*comes a peace that passes understanding*” (**Philippians 4:6-7**).

Dan Winkler

THE CONGREGATION'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ITS ELDERS

In our sermons and articles, we have had much to say about the elders of a congregation. We have talked about who they are. We have studied their qualifications and their duties. However, we must recognize that there are reciprocal duties and responsibilities that are expected of the congregation. The congregational duties toward the elders are detailed in **I Timothy 5:17-22** and **Hebrews 13:17**.

- 1. We are to honor them.** *“Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, the laborer is worthy of his reward” (I Timothy 5:17-18).* Respect toward the eldership is expected of every member. Those elders who give themselves to serving the congregation in a full-time way should be given “double-honor” and could even be materially compensated for their labor.
- 2. We are to protect them.** *“Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses” (I Timothy 5:19).* The reputation of an elder of the church is of great value, not only to him and his family but it is of special value to the church. His name, therefore, should be shielded from false accusations.
- 3. We are to rebuke them.** *“Them that sin rebuke them before all, that others also may fear. I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality” (I Timothy 5:20-21).* An elder who persists in sin is treated like any member who habitually sins. His sin must be addressed for the sake of his soul and the purity of the congregation. A public rebuke is to take place only when guilt is established by the testimony of witnesses and the guilty ones are impenitent. This action should be taken without prejudice or without previous judgment.
- 4. We are to cautiously select them.** *“Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men’s sins: keep thyself pure” (I Timothy 5:22).* It is much easier to place a man in the eldership than it is to remove him. The way to guard against unqualified men entering the eldership is to exercise extreme caution in the selection process. The only way for us, as individual members, to remain guiltless in this matter, is to make sure we follow inspired instructions.
- 5. We are to obey them.** *“Obey them that have rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not grief: for that is unprofitable for you” (Hebrews 13:17).* The elders have been given oversight of the congregation by direction of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 20:28**). It is just as much God’s will for church members to submit, as it is His will for elders to rule. It is just as much God’s will for members to follow, as it is His will for elders to lead. It is just as much God’s will for the flock to eat the spiritual food that is provided as it is His will for the shepherds to feed us.

May each of us soberly, consistently and respectfully carry out our responsibilities to the elders.

Jerry Martin