



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

November 20, 2011

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
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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

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THANKSGIVING EVERY DAY

By Paul Sain

A national holiday – one of our favorites – the very word conjures thoughts of delicious food and family gatherings. Yet, may we consider and strive to make **every day** a day of *Thanksgiving!*

Let us be continually **THANKFUL** for *family and friends*. We are so fortunate and rich to have those who care, love and share with us the joys and troubles of life.

May we always express our **THANKS** for our *county, state and country* in which we live. America is great (even with its current problems) – the greatest in the world. It is impossible for most to grasp how blessed we are compared to the majority throughout the world.

Our heart should be filled with **GRATITUDE** for our *wealth*. Yes we are rich (even when we struggle, have difficulty meeting our obligations, etc.). Money to buy even our “*necessities*” (however we may define them) is far more than many enjoy.

Our lives should regularly reflect **GIVING THANKS** for our *health*. Understandably we may have aches and pains, wish and pray for present difficulties to be removed – but as we look around – there are always those who are less fortunate, suffering even more, enduring unbearable affirmatives in their lives.

We owe a great **DEBT** for *those who have gone before*. So many have sacrificed so much to enable all to enjoy what we have and where we are today. Consider what our parents and grandparents have done for us. Think seriously about the hundreds of thousands who have fought in war, defending and making possible our freedom today. Pause and appreciate the special people who taught us about God, His Word, and right from wrong.

Most of all, let us acknowledge, appreciate, **EVER BE THANKFUL** for our *spiritual blessings* in Jesus Christ (**Ephesians 1:3**). Things do not matter (**Luke 12:17**). Wealth will soon (if the world continues) be given into the hands of others. Our bodies will fail and death will remove us from this brief journey. But, the unspeakable gift of God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ makes possible our eternal existence in a mansion that is more glorious and wonderful than our minds can grasp. Forgiven of our sins – reconciled to our Almighty Father – an heir of the Creator of the world – a brother or sister to the greatest of the world – assured that we are never alone – confident that nothing can separate us from the love of God – *richly blessed!*

“MRS. JONES, DO YOU KNOW ME?”

A small town prosecuting attorney called his first witness to the stand in a trial - a grandmotherly, elderly woman. He approached her and asked, “Mrs. Jones do you know me?”

She responded, “Why, yes, I do know you, Mr. Williams. I’ve known you since you were a little boy. And frankly, you’ve been a big disappointment to me. You lie, you cheat on your wife, and you manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs. You think you’re a rising big shot when you haven’t the brains to realize you never will amount to anything more than a two-bit paper pusher. Yes, I know you.”

The lawyer was stunned. Not knowing what else to do, he pointed across the room and asked, “Mrs. Jones, do you know the defense attorney?”

She again replied, “Well, yes I do. I’ve know Mr. Bradley since he was a youngster, too. I used to baby-sit him for his parents. And he, too, has been a real disappointment to me. He’s lazy, bigoted, and he has a drinking problem. The man can’t build a normal relationship with anyone, and his law practice is one of the shoddiest in the entire state. Yes, I know him.”

At this point, the judge rapped for silence and called both counselors to the bench. In a quiet voice, he said with menace, “If either of you asks her if she knows me, you’ll be in jail for contempt within five minutes!”

It is frightening to think of someone knowing (and sharing) everything there is to know about us! In the book of **Revelation**, seven letters are sent from Jesus Christ to seven churches in Asia Minor. Each of the letters begins with the same words: *“I know thy works”* (**Revelation 2:2**).

It is a sobering thought to know that as we stand before the great Judge, there is one who knows all about us. May that knowledge serve to motivate us to live righteous lives. *“For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil”* (**Ecclesiastes 12:14**).