



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

November 6, 2011

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

## DELAYED GRATIFICATION

Most parents have seen this happen. As the communion tray passes by, a little one in a stage whisper says: "Mom, can I have some juice, too?" Of course you say, "No," but most parents wisely respond, "Not yet."

Children could eat crackers and juice, but they would not be partaking of the body and blood of the Lord. The meaning would be lost on them (**I Corinthians 11:23-28**).

"No, you can't" and "Not yet" are quiet different responses. Sometimes it's important to wait. Delay is **not** denial. Waiting for the right time is neither idle nor empty. Anticipation is the best preparation for the moment of fulfillment. I remember the first time I took communion. I was twelve years old, and it was the Sunday after I was baptized. What a very special moment that was!

Delayed gratification is not popular in our culture, but there are times when it is important. Waiting to make a purchase until one saves enough money is better than buying on credit and paying interest (**Proverbs 21:20**). Waiting till marriage for sexual fulfillment avoids many problems and pleases God (**Hebrews 13:4**).

Humans are always in a hurry. God, I have noticed, allows nature to take its course. It doesn't hurt children to observe baptisms and communion and to form the idea that one day; they too will grow to participate in these grownup commitments.

**Stan Mitchell**

## ON BECOMING A CHRISTIAN WHILE YOUNG

As a young boy, I remember the excitement of the prospect of becoming a Christian and being allowed to take a part in the work of the church as an added benefit. All the boys and girls in the churches where I worshipped made decisions for Christ at reasonably early ages. I don't mean by this that they were 7, 8, or 9 years old, but by the time they were 12 or 13 years of age, most of them had obeyed the Gospel. I remember one young man who still had not done so clear into our senior year in high school. He never missed coming to class and services, but never obeyed the Gospel. I worried about him.

I've always believed that children mature at different rates, and there must be an allowance for this in our considering whether one is old enough that we should start worrying about their failure to decide for Christ. There is no Biblically prescribed age for this decision, though some have used the 12<sup>th</sup> year more out of the Jewish background of the young boys being presented in Jerusalem as Jesus was. All of this aside, however, there is a time when we should start to worry.

My phone rang late one night – a call from one of my elders – that a neighbor of his had just lost their 18 year old son in a car wreck. George told me that his family had no church home and were totally without guidance as to funeral proceedings, so we paid a visit and offered our comfort and our services. That was the beginning of a friendship that led to baptizing the entire family – EXCEPT PAT! Pat was dead. He had been tragically killed during his senior year at Choctaw High School in the Oklahoma City area. What words of comfort were there to offer to an aching heart of that devastated father and mother on behalf of the eternal destiny of their son? Would to God that someone could have reached that family before such a tragic hour that Pat could have entered eternity totally prepared to meet his God.

My alarm is revived every time I hear of a teenager in the church who has participated all their lives in Bible school and worship, plus other youth activities, but still has not confessed the name of Jesus and been baptized. Questions flood my mind: How have we failed them? Have we not shown them enough of the joy of Christian living to make them earnestly crave the experience? Have we not convinced them that those who do not obey the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ will have their part in the lake of fire and brimstone?

*“In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (II Thessalonians 1:8).*

*“And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of truth that they might be saved.” (II Thessalonians 2:10)*

*“Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them” (Ecclesiastes 12:1).*

May I lovingly encourage any young person who has delayed to study very carefully this urgent matter.

**Terry Broome, Scottsboro, AL**