



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

October 28, 2012

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

Email:

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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

GLORY IN THE CHURCH

Many of our brethren, and frighteningly it seems an ever-increasing number, seem to believe the local congregation is not important. In fact, based solely upon their behavior it is a bold declaration!

The line of reasoning seems to be that Christ matters, and the church matters, but I can serve Him on my own. From the most conservative to the most liberal, we cannot find which version of Scripture they are reading that will bring them to that conclusion. The Scriptures consistently say not to forsake the assembly (**Hebrews 10:25**). That assembly can be nothing other than the assembly of the local congregation.

One important aspect of the place and value of the local church is that in it God is glorified. Paul wrote, "*Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*" (**Ephesians 3:20-21**). The Father receives glory in what the church does. Our evangelism and benevolence should stand as a testimony of how great our God is. Even our edification speaks to His grandeur.

Jesus said, "*By this all will know that you are My disciple, if you have love for one another*" (**John 13:35**). The place and value we give to one another is evidence that we belong to God. And we desire to be with those we love (dare any say otherwise). The Lord places you in the church upon saving you because He loves you. He then encourages you to join the local congregation (**Acts 9:26**) because you love them and they love you. All so that "*to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations.*"

Tom Lynch

Our Gospel Meeting with Brother B.J. Clarke begins today and will continue thru Thursday, November 1st. Monday thru Thursday our meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. We encourage you to be present at every service, bring someone if at all possible, and invite your friends and family!

“PREACHING LIKE JOHN THE BAPTIST”

It is my humble opinion that John the Baptist would have a hard time getting a job today in the field of ministry. Even if you could get him into a suit and tie there is still that context of his to consider. What church today would allow a man to stand up and condemn the arrogance and wickedness of these our beloved United States? Who would allow a man to trace the fall from morality to infidelity? Would he say that we praise with our mouth and blaspheme with our heart?

Some of our lawmakers have recently met with robe-clad religious leaders of the day to try to figure out the best way to keep the priests from molesting every young child that comes into their presence. When we hear of such things we ask where has our knowledge of God taken us?

I submit to you we are where we are from lack of such knowledge. Where in God’s Word do we learn to be tolerant of lies in the name of peace? Churches are not going to be willing to hear harsh language and rebuttal unless her members have humility before our Almighty God. We should be glad to hear of our error if in fact we have error. However, I fear the doctrine of the day calls only for belief in God. There is no call for us to bring forth fruit worthy of repentance (**Matthew 3:8**). Neither is there a call for repentance. Even members of the Lord’s body have felt pressure to conform. We need John to tell us through inspiration that religion founded on man begins with a lie and then gets worse. The common cry is to accept all forms of doctrine in peace and let God sort it out later. Can we do this? No, because the price is too high.

Baptism **is** for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**) and is **not** an option. The sinner’s prayer is **not** in the Scripture. Faith without works **is** dead (**James 2:17**). We do ourselves a great injustice by speaking half a prophecy. Once saved always saved is not Scriptural (**Hebrews 6:4-6**). We cannot depend on men of the world to tell us of heavenly things and false teaching has its strength in ignorance and indifference. If you do not read and study the Word of God, how can you hope to recognize it? Searching the Scriptures helps us know God.

John was a man not afraid of using inspired words like generation of vipers where it applied but how would that sit with us today. Some looked at John as the prophet of the coming Messiah, others as the lunatic at the river. Be sure to remember, as God’s chosen vessel, those that did not accept John did not receive Christ.

Tim Turpin