



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

September 25, 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

WHERE DOES THE SOUL GO WHEN WE DIE?

The Bible doesn't tell us everything we would like to know about death and what it's like beyond the grave. But it tells us enough about it that we want to prepare for it.

The account of the rich man and Lazarus (**Luke 16:19-31**) gives ample information about life after death. Though many do not believe it and attempt to make it meaningless, Jesus told it to be true; and since He does not lie (**Titus 1:2**), we'd better believe it!

At death, the soul separates from the body and goes to **Hades**. Hades is not the same as hell. It is the temporary waiting place of all the dead, whether good or bad. It is the unseen world of departed spirits – the spirit world. Both the rich man and Lazarus are there now, as are all those who have died (**Luke 16:27-31**). There are two compartments in Hades: **Tartarus** and **Paradise**. The rich man is in torments (**Tartarus**) and Lazarus is in Abraham's bosom (**Paradise**) – (**Luke 16:23, 25**).

Tartarus is the place where the wicked are held. The word "hell" in **II Peter 2:4** is the Greek word Tartarus. It means an abyss, dungeon, prison house. It is not the word that designates the final punishment of the wicked. That word is **Gehenna** and means hell (**Matthew 10:28**).

Paradise is the place where the righteous are held. It was to this place that Jesus went after His death (**Luke 23:43**). Paradise is not the same as heaven where God is, because even after the resurrection, Jesus had not yet ascended to heaven (**John 20:17**).

Hades, then is the place where all men go when they die to await the final judgment (**John 5:28-29; II Corinthians 5:10**). The destiny of those who go there is fixed! There is no other chance! It is not possible for Lazarus or the rich man to cross over to the other side (**Luke 16:26**). If you wake in Tartarus, your final end is the eternal fire of hell. No one in Tartarus is happy. There is pain, torment, and anguish. The only way to escape is to prepare now to go to paradise.

Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins (**Acts 2:38**). Continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ (**II Peter 3:18**). There's no other way but the Lord's way. Do you believe it? If so, then you must obey.

Garland Robinson

ABOUT THE FUTURE

Have you ever noticed how impossible it is to forecast the future? I'm sure lots of folks happily sank a lot of cash into Enron stock...right before it became worthless. Think of any sports draft. Michael Jordan was selected third overall in the 1984 NBA draft. Sam Bowie was taken #2 that year. Sam never had a shoe named after him and I don't think the folks at Gatorade ever cared whether or not he drank their product. A lot of NFL fans in Houston are angrily second-guessing the powers-that-be for drafting Mario Williams instead of Reggie Bush or Vince Young. The Beatles got turned down by MCA records. MCA thought groups with guitars were on the way out. I'd say they missed that one. What about your own life? Where have you missed it?

I am glad that as Christians we are blessed with some clear information about the future. **First of all, as Christians we are closer than we have ever been!** The cosmic countdown marches on, and only the Father knows how close we are to our reward. Every step into another day is a step closer to the fullness of our salvation. **Romans 13:11** says, *“And this do, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed.”*

We are steadily moving toward a divine appointment. You may be building a house you'll never live in. You may be making plans to take a trip you'll never take because the Lord has other “travel plans” arranged for you. We are closer than we have ever been to our departure for what lies beyond the grave. In Christ, we can eagerly wait and anticipate the coming day when we will celebrate.

Secondly, it is later than it has ever been. We have less time to accomplish our mission. Jesus said in **John 9:4-5**, *“We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.”* It was true for Jesus and it is true for us: the time to shine is right now while we are still in this world.

Be faithful and courageous! We are closer than we have ever been. Let's present to a lost world the plea of the crucified carpenter who wants to build something beautiful out of the broken lives of sinners. Knowing it is later than it has ever been, we can help turn the tide of tomorrow's tears into the joy of sweet forgiveness and salvation.

Clyde H. Slimp