



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

September 2, 2012

P.O. Box 416  
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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

## A LIGHTHOUSE

When Christ was speaking on the mount (as recorded in **Matthew 5-7**), He compared His followers to several things, such as a wise builder, a candle, a city on a hill, and a lighthouse. What are some characteristics of a lighthouse that Christians should have? As one contemplates this subject, he may notice that a lighthouse *warns* ships, is *strong*, and is *continual*.

A lighthouse is built because someone found an area that could be deadly, and he felt a duty to warn others about the danger. Christians read from the Bible of a life that leads to destruction (**Matthew 7:13-14; II Corinthians 5:10-11**), and it is our duty and pleasure to be able to help save lives from that day of destruction. We Christians know of the paths that lead to death; therefore, we need to warn people as far as we can – just as a lighthouse does.

A lighthouse is strong. It has to have a very strong foundation so it can resist the harshness that will come. Christ is the “firm foundation” from which we get our strength. A lighthouse without a strong foundation is nothing. Likewise, a Christian who loses his foundation is nothing. As Christians, we will have many storms, hardships, and waves around us, trying to beat us down; but we stand on Christ, for He is our strength.

The light from a lighthouse not only beams brightly but beams continually. It is always warning. Similarly, Christians are to preach Christ continually (**II Timothy 4:2**). We are to preach about the destruction and salvation (**Acts 20:27**). **II Timothy 4:2** reads that we are to preach “in season” and “out of season.” We are to be continually warning.

There are many similarities between Christians and lighthouses, and these are just a few. We warn of the destruction to come. We are strong. We continually tell the message. And our job never stops. So, let us not forget that, as Christians, we are to be lighthouses and let our lights shine!

**Sean Carratt**

# CHANGING THE CHURCH

Yes, change is “in.” “Out with the old and in with the new” seems to be the familiar refrain of the day. And, by the way, there is nothing new about that either. The philosophers of Athens during Paul’s day met at the Aeropagus and “*spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing*” (**Acts 17:21**). These men did not put their trust in divine revelation, but in the latest philosophical viewpoint that was advance. So, their lives had no solid foundation like that provided by the word of God (**Matthew 7:24-27**), but were subject to being blown about in the winds of changing human thought (**Ephesians 4:14**).

You would expect such a problem to be associated with pagans. Unfortunately, the Lord’s church is plagued with the same circumstance. The current liberal trends in the church can be traced to the same root cause. Brethren either have no high regard for the Scripture (**Isaiah 66:2**), or they have not been grounded in its truth by thorough teaching (**Acts 20:26-27**). As a result, the change trend promoted by the change agents among us takes root in many congregations of the Lord.

It is not that all change is bad. In fact, many things about the church need changing. The lack of zeal, the immorality practiced by many saints, the failure to discipline the unfaithful, the woeful lack of evangelism, the non-attendance at worship assemblies by too many, the characteristic low work-ethic of so many in the body of Christ all need to change NOW! But, you will notice that each of these items listed has to do with human failings. Repentance in the ranks of the saints is sorely needed in all of these areas. But, the change agents desire to tinker with the divine side of the church. They are dissatisfied with the plan of salvation taught in Scripture, the organizational structure God has authored, and the plan of worship which God gave us. They find God’s plan for an exclusive body and an exclusive fellowship to be too restrictive and narrow, so they change to accommodate modern ecumenical views (**Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4; II John 9-11**). These things cannot be changed with God’s approval (**Revelation 22:18-19**). When these things are changed, the church ceases to be the church of the Lord, and has become a new denomination of our own devising. The Scriptural designation “church of Christ” (**Romans 16:16**) is only fitting for a body of believers who desire to faithfully adhere to Heaven’s pattern for the church found in the Gospel. Those who forsake that way have given up the right to call themselves by that designation and should remove that name from their sign right away! What really needs changing about the church is found in our own mirrors!

**Darwin Hunter**